

## Small Group Conferencing

Powerful small group instruction can move readers and writers forward. Small group conferencing allows educators to see more students, more often. Small group conferencing does not need to be time consuming, but, when well planned, can be a powerful asset to your practice.

### Key Mindsets

- Whoever is doing the thinking is doing the learning.
- Maximize your time: see more students, repeat yourself less!
- Goal = independent, standards-level skills (Ask: "could they do this alone?").

### Levels of Practice

Teacher Newer to Conferencing		↔	More Expertise with Conferencing	
Students selected to <u>practice recent lessons</u> , again, with your support.	Students selected to <u>support or extend</u> recent lessons, with your support.	Students selected to support or extend <u>skills of current and recent units</u> , with your support.	Students selected to support or extend <u>skills of the standards</u> , with your support.	
Less Student Differentiation		↔	More Student Differentiation	

### Small Group Conferencing Planning Decisions

Skill	by	Strategy
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Teachers Can		Students Can
Teach	Use	Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● remind students of a prior strategy</li> <li>● teach a new strategy</li> <li>● refer to a menu of recent strategies</li> <li>● lead an inquiry into strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● previously read/written part of a familiar text</li> <li>● read/write new part of familiar text</li> <li>● read/write new text</li> <li>● other materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● in independent work (book, writing)</li> <li>● in own part of group work (book club book, group project)</li> <li>● in a new text</li> <li>● with other materials</li> </ul>