

Teacher Stems for Providing Mid-Process Feedback

(aligned to PSSA Writing Domains)

Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the prompt asking you to do? How do you plan to address all parts of the prompt? • Who is your audience? How do you plan to address the prompt with this audience in mind? • In one sentence, what do you want me to walk away with after reading this? • How do each of your (events, ideas, arguments) relate to your (theme, thesis, claim)?
Content Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your purpose for writing? • As a reader, I don't understand this part. How can we make this clearer? • Which section of your paper includes the most supporting evidence or vivid detail? Why? • Which section of your paper has the least amount of support? Why? How could you develop it further? • How does this (detail, piece of evidence) support your (theme, thesis, claim)? • Do you think any part of this would be confusing to the reader? Why? • (For narrative writing) How do you use narrative elements like (foreshadowing, dialogue, conflict, point-of-view, etc.) to develop the story?
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to me about how you organized this piece of writing and why you chose to organize it this way. • (For informational and persuasive writing) Does your thesis or claim lay out the structure of your paper? • As a reader, the shift from (idea) to (idea) felt abrupt. What could be added or changed to help the reader make a smoother transition? • Your use of transitions, specifically (insert transition), helps you shift from one idea to the next.
Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through your writing, what attitude do you hope to convey to the reader? Do you think you achieved that? How? • Your use of language when you (describe, explain, argue) (insert content) is (precise, vivid, effective, ambiguous, vague, etc.)...because... • When I read this (sentence, paragraph, etc.), it was a little confusing to me. Is there another (word, phrase, sentence) that would make this clearer? • (For persuasive writing) You seem very passionate about this topic, but I'm not getting that same feeling from your writing. How could we intensify your language so that it is clear to the reader how strongly you feel? • (For narrative writing) How do you use literary devices like figurative language, repetition, tone to enhance your writing and make it more interesting to read?
Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here is a (grammar, spelling, punctuation) error. What do you think is incorrect about this? How might you fix it? As you proofread your work, make sure you look for any other instances of this and make the appropriate revisions.