

## Responding to Your Student's Written Work

### A few notes on providing feedback to your student's written work:

- Your daughter is fortunate to have you interested and willing to offer feedback!
- You are fortunate your daughter is willing to share her work with you!
- Please feel free to respond to your daughter's work, but do not try to rewrite it for her.

### More specifically:

1. In matters of spelling, punctuation, or grammar, please circle, highlight, or otherwise indicate the error you detect. In the margins or the space above the line, indicate what she should do (e.g. check spelling, reword, change punctuation, etc.). Please do not simply make the correction; let her make the changes so she learns what must be revised and how she must carry this out. In this way, she will learn to edit her own work and take pride in her final copy.
2. If sentences seem unclear, vague, or otherwise awkward, please indicate the problem, but not the solution. In other words, provide feedback that a sentence does not make sense to you, but let her try to "fix" it. Do take time to explain what you find unclear or awkward, but let her do the revising herself. You can likely do it faster and more efficiently, but she is the one who needs the practice.
3. If you sense that a paper has a problem in the argument, logic, or support, provide her with that feedback. For example, say "This paragraph seems a bit off topic. You have general statements, but no specific examples." If she has questions about how to make it better, it is often effective to counter with questions: "Where would you begin to revise this? Do you have sentences that don't seem to fit with your topic sentence? What examples from the text can you use to support this claim?" etc. If she needs additional help, you can help her brainstorm: "How can you make this paragraph more effective? Let's list possible support for this statement...Can you use better, more direct language to convey your ideas?" Again, please refrain from line-editing her paper. Students learn better from grappling with problems that all writers encounter and finding their own strategies for overcoming these challenges.

More than anything else, during an intense writing project, your student needs your support and understanding (and maybe some chocolate!). Please offer that in the best way possible—the ways that you've learned to support her when she struggles. Please be supportive, but without taking too active a role in revising or rewriting her work. Finally, we have excellent educators in the building—English teachers as well as Learning Center staff—who are here to assist each student in her writing.

Thank you for all that you do!