

OPERATIONAL MINI-LESSON 7

Making Goals for Your Writing

Reading Connection: It is important for students to know the expectations for continual improvement. Setting goals and self-reflection are necessary for growth in both reading and writing. Students can align literacy goals in order to work smarter toward reaching those goals. For example, a reading goal of competently retelling a narrative can be supported by writing in the structure of a narrative.

Speaking & Listening Connection: Setting goals for oral presentation is essential for improvement in speaking to an audience. Goals could include speaking louder, speaking with expression, or maintaining eye contact with the audience.

Materials:

- goal sheet for each student (see page 75)

Prep Step: none

Connection

Begin this lesson with a story about a hypothetical child you know that wanted to learn how to ride a bike before his birthday. Elaborate about how he had a special person show him how to ride a bike and who helped him practice. Then every day when he got home from school, he practiced by himself. On the first day he decided he would try to ride down the driveway to the mailbox. Then on the second day he tried to get to the neighbor's house, and then he tried to get to the middle of the block.

Explain how he kept setting goals and then practicing until he made his goal. When he made one goal, he set another goal. Finally, by his birthday he was riding his bike beautifully. He met his big goal!

Explain that writers do the same thing. They set goals all year long so they can see themselves growing as a writer. Then finally,

by the end of the year, their writing muscles become very strong and they are writing much better than on the first day of school. Explain that a goal is like a stepping stone to get you where you really want to be. **Today I want to teach you how to set a goal for your writing so that you can be the best writer that you can be.**

Teach

Show each student the goal sheet found on page 75. Go over each section and think aloud about how you would fill it out. Share how each of them will be filling out a goal sheet, and how every month students will reflect on their progress toward the goals they set. Writers can then decide if they need a new goal or will keep working on the current one. Remind them of the work they are doing in reading and scaffold students in writing. Hand out the goal sheets and fill them out together step-by-step. Students who need extra help could finish one-on-one during a conference.

Active Engagement

Ask students to share individual goals with their writing partner or the person sitting next to them.

Link to Future Work

Remind students to think about their goals every day as they write. Encourage them to do their very best to reach their goals. Have students give a simple thumbs-up after each

workshop if they worked toward their goal that particular day.

Follow up

Share each student's writing goals with their parents. Celebrate approximations toward those goals periodically by highlighting the work of individual students. Remember to make every student feel important at some point during the month. •

Goals for Writing

Name _____

Places I plan to write:

Things I need to practice:

- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

I will read my writing to:

An author I would like to study:

