

A Word of Advice

Sometimes being in middle school is tough! You are forced to deal with different conflicts every day. This is your chance to share your words of wisdom to help make middle school easier for the younger students who are about to enter the world of junior high.

Project Tasks

1. The entire class should work in groups of three to four to brainstorm a list of conflicts you have dealt with since entering middle or high school. Remember, conflicts are not always with other people; they could also be internal struggles.
2. Choose the conflict you feel like you know the most about. Perhaps it is something you have dealt with personally or something you have helped a friend overcome.
3. Develop a story that focuses on this central conflict and how the conflict was resolved. Your story may be based on real events in your life, but it should be fictional. Do not include real names or places. Be creative! Use a graphic organizer to plan your story. You may want to utilize the story map at www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/storymap to help you organize your story.
4. After you have created a draft of your story, we will work as a class to develop an editing checklist. Then, work in small groups to edit each other's stories. Be sure your peers' stories match the editing criteria we have developed.
5. Once your story is free of errors, it is time to publish! Use an online story publisher to share your story. The publisher should allow you to add pictures and text, so that you are able to share your story in the best possible way! You may use any free publishing website such as Storybird, StoryJumper, or ZooBurst.
6. You should also design some discussion questions that you may share with the elementary students. Create questions that connect your story to the lives of the elementary students. For example, "How would you handle this situation?" or "What could the character have done differently?"
7. Once your stories are published, we will take a trip to a local elementary school so that you can share your stories and make their transition just a little bit easier!

Scoring Rubric

	1 SIGNIFICANT REVISION NEEDED	2 SOME REVISION NEEDED	3 PROFICIENT	4 EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS
Objective 1: Students will create a narrative addressing a conflict in their life and how it was resolved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story lacks in creativity. • Conflict is irrelevant. • Resolution does not occur. • There are several errors in spelling, grammar, or mechanics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story is slightly creative. • Conflict is vague. • Resolution is unclear. • There are a few errors in grammar, spelling, or mechanics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The story is unique and creative. • Conflict is apparent. • Resolution is logical and clear. • There are one or two errors in spelling, grammar, or mechanics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The story is highly creative and unique to the student's own mind. • Conflict is relevant and obvious in the story. • Resolution is clear and logical. • There are no errors in grammar, spelling, or mechanics.
Objective 2: Students will publish their work using online technologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student work is not published. • Work that may be published is very messy and unorganized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student work is published. • Published work is messy or appears incomplete. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student work is published. • Published work is neat and organized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student work is published. • Published work is exceptionally neat and organized.
Objective 3: Students will be able to present their work to an audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student needs improvement in their speaking skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student uses somewhat appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation when speaking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student uses appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation when speaking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student excels at using appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation when speaking.