

Workshop Protocol: A Narrative Response

1. Get into groups of four.
2. In this session, we'll focus on a narrative response to the sketches and drafts. Each writer will read his or her piece aloud to the group in three episodes, stopping after reading the lead, after reading to the middle, and after finishing the draft. These pauses should be exactly two minutes, during which listeners will do some writing on a separate piece of paper. The writer must be the timekeeper.
3. In responding in writing to each fragment, consider the following questions:
 - ❖ After hearing the lead: What do you think the essay is about? What questions does the lead raise you expect might be answered later? What has struck you so far? What are your feelings towards the narrator?
 - ❖ After hearing half: Tell the story of what you've been thinking or feeling about what you've heard so far. Does the draft seem to deliver on the promises of the lead? What do you expect will happen next?
 - ❖ After hearing it all: Summarize your understanding of what the draft is about, including what it *seems* to be saying (not quite saying?) Use camera metaphors to describe how the writer handled the material. When does he or she move in for a close-up, long shots, etc. What could the writer do to make the essay stronger?
4. Spend about ten minutes discussing your responses and reactions. Make sure that, at some point, you address the five questions for discussion I've posted on the Powerpoint slide.
5. Return your signed, written comments to the writer.