

## Mini Lesson: Talk to Yourself

Serravallo, Jennifer. *The Writing Strategies Book: Your Everything Guide to Developing Skilled Writers*. 2015. Print.

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When we are writing, it's important to have voice, or character in our piece. By talking out loud we can find details that we want to include, and we can catch mistakes in our writing. Let's explore how we can add details and voice to our writing.

One way to do this is...

- 1) Speak out loud what you want to say.
- 2) Pay attention to the details and the voice you use.
- 3) Think about how to translate this into writing.
- 4) When you feel comfortable with the sound of the language, try to capture that same voice in your writing.

Look at some example here:

***My Topic:*** *Trying to put my pants on backward.*

***Phrases I said:***

- *I was so tired I thought I was going to die.*
- *I thought the lights would blind me*
- *I fumbled around in the dark searching for my pants.*
- *Something didn't feel quite right...*
- *I was like, what is going on with these pants?!*

***Beginning of Draft:***

*Monday morning. As my alarm repeatedly told me it was time to get up, I thought about what amount of money I would pay just to stay in bed. I was so tired, I thought I was going to die. Miraculously I managed to peel myself out from under the sheets and gave a loud, bone-cracking stretch. I refused to turn on the lights for fear it would blind me...*

Now it's your turn to try...

Tell your story out loud a few times. Look back at your notes and make sure you included the details that you listed in your notebook. What other details are sticking out now? What ones do you need to add? As you talk write down phrases or words that jump out to you as capturing your voice and character. Write your first draft of your story trying to integrate both the voice and details into your writing that you used in your oral storytelling. Remember to try and capture your audience's attention.

Today and every day that you are writing you can use the strategy of reading aloud to capture important details and add voice and character to your piece.