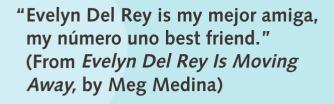
## Instead of prescriptively telling students what to do as writers . . .

## Show them a mentor text . . .

That will allow you to describe precisely what writers do.

"Write an introduction that hooks your readers."



"There are lots of ways to begin stories, and Meg Medina uses a really powerful one in Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away. She starts by giving readers an important background detail—that Evelyn is the best friend of the narrator, Daniela. By revealing this detail at the very beginning of the story, Meg Medina helps us understand immediately how big a deal it is that Evelyn is moving away."

"Add lots of detail to your writing."



"Lurking below the water's surface, a croc lies in wait for its prey. When an unsuspecting animal passes by, the 1,000-pound beast explodes out of the water, grabs its victim, and drags it under the water to drown. Yikes!" (From Deadliest Animals, by Melissa Stewart)



"In this section, Melissa Stewart elaborates by writing several action facts—in this case, things that crocodiles do with their bodies. We learn what crocodiles do with their whole bodies—'the 1,000-pound beast explodes out of the water'—and also a part of its body, its claws—'grabs its victim' and 'drags it under the water to drown.'"