**Writing Buddy (n) -** Someone who works alongside you in an equal partnership with the common goal of improving both pieces of writing. You’ll have a writing buddy for each writing piece from this point forward!

**What’s the point?**

Writing is not a solitary mission - through a system of constant, immediate feedback, you will be not only improving your own work but also improving the work of a peer. It’s not “peer editing” because it happens constantly, not just when the first draft is complete. As 6th graders, it is important to begin improving your commenting and discussions about writing.

**Is this a real thing or just a crazy invention?**

This is real! The most famous “writing buddies” were CS Lewis (The Chronicles of Narnia) and JRR Tolkien (The Lord of the Rings). They worked together for YEARS providing honest, unbiased feedback to each other.

**How does it work?**

The point of a writing buddy is not to nitpick about grammar or punctuation. The purpose is to improve the overall work. You will be looking for items such as engaging hooks, clear thesis statements, consistent viewpoint, clear arguments, word choice, evidence...etc.!

You will share your document via Google to your writing partner. As you write, you’ll have your work open and theirs open in another tab. You can flip to your buddy’s work at any time and read, leave comments, or even ask them a question. As you write your own work, if you have a question about your writing or are stuck, leave a comment on your own document!

**Some important notes…**

1. YOU DO NOT NEED TO AGREE WITH YOUR WRITING BUDDY’S VIEWPOINT. Your task is to improve their writing, not change their opinion.
2. You can talk about the comments verbally for clarification, however the talking that is heard during this assignment must be specifically about the assignment.
3. **Do not “resolve” or delete any comments.** I want to see the entire process that you and your partner went through. At the end of the writing, you will reflect on this process. You’ll need the comments to do this.
4. This is an equal partnership. Your participation in commenting on your writing buddy’s work is as important as writing your own work. Work towards improvement, not judgement.
5. The best comments are questions or suggestions. Do not say “change this” but rather “try this instead” and provide a suggestion.