4 Strategies for Figuring out Conventions in Context of Authentic Texts

Self to Peer to Teacher Editing

- **Modeling:** Read over a piece of your own writing in front of students and notice/mark places where you are wondering about a convention. Ask for help from class. Make changes or make note to find out more.

- For a piece of writing well into revision and ready to move to a more public audience, students should read to themselves and mark places of convention confusion. Pass to partner for clarification/support.

- In daybook keep notes to self on the kinds of convention questions you have most often.

**Book Pass w Stickies: Capitalization**

- Pass picture books around the circle, add a flag to each book you receive marking a letter in each that is capitalized (even if does NOT follow traditional/known conventions)

- At last pass (or whatever stopping point) look through all flags in book and write in daybook about what you notice

- Share

- Use this strategy for lots of other convention studies (punctuation, spelling patterns, use of dialect)

**Spelling Investigation** (based on ideas for Spelling K-8, Snowball and Bolton)

- Search for common spelling pattern around room, building (ex. Words with soft c or words with long a sound or words with letter s)

- Write words with pattern on sticky notes

- Post stickies on board as found

- Back together as class ask, What do you notice?

- With students find ways to sort stickies.

**Spelling Possibility** (based on ideas for Spelling K-8, Snowball and Bolton)

- For each word called write down at least three possible spellings (even if you REALLY think you know the conventional spelling)

- Ask one student someone to share on the board

- Decide as group on what we think is the conventional spelling

**Searching for Ellipses...**

- Look back through your daybook at your own writing or writing of others that you have glued in... see if you can find an example of an ellipse.

- Students write one example on the board as they find it.

- Discussion: What do we notice

- In daybook: what does an ellipse do?

- Write some favorite examples.

- Try one in your own writing.