**Writing Strategy**

**Funneling**

**Purpose**

* To help students narrow their focus before they write.
* To organize students’ thoughts around a specific and narrow aspect of a topic.
* To guide individual writing conferences with students.
* To help students write interesting essays on narrow topics instead of bland pieces of writing on broad topics.

**Directions**

1. Have students individually come up with topics for writing essays.
2. Have students choose one topic from their list that they will write about.
3. In individual conferences or in small groups ask guiding questions about the topic designed to “funnel” a broad topic into something much more narrow (see attached example).
4. Students then write a first draft on their now specific topic.
5. Work individually with students to help them edit their written work or have students work in groups to peer edit their pieces.

Write

Smaller