Tips for easy assessment of Writers’ Workshop

* Don’t pick two many skills to work on. One or two skills per child is manageable.
* Start by identifying a writing skill or craft element that most students have not mastered. Focus your assessment here.
* If your assessment style is to meander through the room, list your students on the assessment sheet in the order they are arranged in the room. Regardless of whether you use desks in a room or groupings at tables, list your kids on the assessment sheet so it is easy to find them.
* In addition to listing students by their physical location, group students onto separate sheets by the skill they are working on. For example, if 10 children need to work on writing leads, 5 need to work on complete sentences, and 10 need to work on providing more details in their writing, then the 10 lead students on one sheet, the 5 complete sentences students on another, and so on.
* How many children should you assess in each Writers’ Workshop session? Pick a number that works for you and be flexible about it. For example, if you do Writers’ Workshop on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, you might assess four students on Tuesday, three students on Wednesday, and five students on Thursday. In the end, if you have a large class, it may take you three weeks to gain assessment information on each student. 

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