Essential Skill: Partnering

Balloon Crew

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne. Once I was on a road trip driving back home, and I noticed the fields were dotted with bright colors. I discovered they were hot air balloons. Turns out there was a hot air balloon festival starting just as I was driving through. I looked it up later and found out that the balloons come in all shapes and sizes—like this giant polar bear balloon, or this pig balloon. But my favorites were all of the monster balloons! They were the most fun to look at.

I also learned more about how they fly. At first, it looked like there was only one person in charge of landing it. But I found out there's actually a team of people, called a crew, who worked together to get the balloon in and out of the air safely. Listen to how the pilot of this rainbow balloon communicates with the ground crew to land the balloon.

> **Rainbow Balloon:** *Ground Crew come in. This is Rainbow Balloon. We are ready for landing. We're about five miles out waiting for signal to land. Over.*
>
> **Ground Crew:** *Ground Crew copies, checking lane area. Over.*
>
> **Rainbow Balloon:** *Copy that. Are we clear for landing? Over.*
>
> **Ground Crew:** *Negative. We've got cows. Over.*

Rainbow Balloon: *Cows? Over.*

Ground Crew: *Correct. Cows. Rainbow balloon let's move landing one mile west. Over.*

Rainbow Balloon: *Copy that. Moving one mile west. Over.*

Ground Crew: *Ground Crew to Rainbow Balloon, landing area is clear. Location is free of cows. Over.*

Rainbow Balloon: *Copy that. Thank you, Ground Crew. Over and out.*

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What did you notice about how the crew communicated while landing the balloon?

HOOK 2

You may have noticed that one person was in the balloon and one person from the crew was on the ground. Or you may have noticed that they use walkie talkies to talk to each other and that they had a signal to let each other know when they were done talking. You may have noticed something else about how they communicated and work together to land the balloon safely.

The same way I thought there was only one person in charge of landing the balloon is how we sometimes see writing. You may think that writing is one person coming up with ideas and writing alone, but writers don't work alone the whole time.

When I'm writing, I like to talk about my ideas with others to see what they think. And sometimes my ideas end up changing into something different. When I was writing my book, I worked with a team of people. They listened to my ideas, asked questions, and

shared their ideas. They became my writing community. And over time, in many conversations, they helped me turn my ideas into the story I wanted to share.

If you look around, you might notice that you're in a classroom writing community. A writing community is any group of writers helping each other with their ideas and their writing. Think about your writing community. And how you communicate ideas and work together as partners or small groups.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What does partner work look and sound like to you?

HOOK 3

Sharing ideas with partners can look different in each writing community. Maybe in your writing community, you talk your ideas out before writing. Or maybe you share your writing with a partner when you're all done, or maybe you're new to working with a partner when you write. You may feel nervous sharing ideas at first, especially when you're working with a new partner for the first time.

Imagine these two partners are working with each other for the first time. They need to come up with ideas for a newly designed hot air balloon that looks like a monster. Listen to how they communicate.

> **Partner 1**: *The monster balloon should look like...*
>
> **Partner 2**: *Oh! I want it to have five lobster claws for arms.*
>
> **Partner 1**: *I don't know how to draw that. So, I don't want to do that. But it could have...*
>
> **Partner 2**: *It could have spikes everywhere, but they should be....*
>
> **Partner 1**: *I want to have one scary eyeball...*
>
> **Partner 2**: *And ah... spikes. It should have orange and lime green.*

Partner 1: *Oh! I know—it should have spikes!*

Partner 2: *Hey, wait. That was my idea.*

Partner 1: *Oh, I didn't hear you.*

Yikes! That didn't go very well.

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: What would you do differently to make sure everyone's ideas are heard?

HOOK 4

As writers, we will have lots of ideas to share, but it's important to understand how to communicate so that everyone gets a chance to share their ideas and be heard. When we communicate as partners in our writing community, we might do things like this:

- Take turns to talk.
- Ask your partner questions if you don't quite understand their idea.
- And use a signal to let your partner know you are ready to move on.

Today, you're going to practice communicating with a partner. You'll come up with an idea to design a new hot air balloon that looks like a monster. After you come up with your design, you will communicate that idea to your partner so that they can draw it out.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Look at the box that says, "Directions to draw your monster balloon."

Before you can communicate your ideas, you'll need to come up with your own ideas for what you want your partner to draw.

Look at number 1. Think of something that could go on top of your monster balloon. Like a hat, hair, or an accessory, write your answer here. If you need ideas, you can use this idea bank.

STEP 4

Look at number 2. Pick a number for how many eyes your monster will have. Write a number between 1 and 8 here.

STEP 5

Look at number 3. Think of what shape you want your monster's mouth to be. Write your answer here. If you need ideas, you can use this idea bank.

STEP 6

Look at number 4. Pick a number for how many arms your monster will have. Write a number between 1 and 5 here.

STEP 7

Look at number 5. Pick what color your monster will be, and write it here.

STEP 8

Your idea for your monster balloon is complete. Now that you have a finished idea, you'll communicate that idea to your partner and they'll draw how they picture your balloon on their worksheet.

Before you start giving directions, look at the box at the bottom of the page.

Each time, when you're ready to draw, you and your partner will do a signal—to show you are both done talking—so that you can begin drawing at the same time. Signal, then draw.

Decide with your partner which signal you would like to do together and circle it on your page here. After you circle your choice, practice with your partner.

STEP 9

Look back at number 1 from your directions.

You and your partner will take turns reading number 1 to each other.

When you're both done talking, ask each other questions if you're confused. Once you both understand each other's directions, use your signal.

Finally, you'll draw what your partner communicated to you on your own worksheet. This is just a plan for a balloon, so it can be a quick sketch.

STEP 10

Now take turns reading number 2 from your directions. When you're both done talking, ask your partner questions if you're confused. Do your signal, then draw.

STEP 11

Take turns reading number 3 from your directions. When you're both done talking, ask your partner questions if you're confused. Do your signal, then draw.

STEP 12

Now take turns reading number 4 from your directions.

STEP 13

Take turns reading number 5 from your directions.

STEP 14

Watch this whole step before you start.

In a moment, you'll get to look at what your partner drew. When you see your partner's balloon sketch, it will probably look differently than how you pictured, and that's okay. Remember, this is how your partner pictures the balloon you designed. When I say go, take a look at your partner's directions and see if your balloon sketch matches up with the ideas they had written down.

Ready?

Go!

WRAP UP

You and your partner took the ideas you had for a monster balloon and made them come to life by listening and working as a team. You may have noticed that your partner's drawing didn't look exactly like the monster you first pictured in your head, and that's okay. We all have our own way of picturing what writers communicate. All of these ideas no matter how different they may seem are still good ideas!

Not only did you come up with your own idea for this design, but you took turns to talk, asked questions when you didn't understand directions, and signaled to let your partner know you were ready to draw. The next time you discuss with a partner, keep these things in mind to share and listen to lots of other great ideas.

See you next time, writers.