

Sample Center Cards

Computer Spell Checker

At this center you will use the computer word processor.

1. Type your word onto the page, making sure to copy it exactly as you wrote it.
2. The program should offer you options for different spellings for that word. Do not simply pick the first one on the list. See which one makes the most sense for your writing (you might have to look up the meaning of a word if you are not sure).
3. Record the chosen spelling into your draft.
4. If the spell checker does not offer you any options this means either you spelled that word correctly, or this word is a homophone. In that case, you might want to use another tool for this word to double-check.

Whiteboard

At this center you will choose a word you are checking and try spelling it a few different ways to see which way looks right.

1. Write your word, exactly how it's spelled, on the whiteboard.
2. Circle the part or parts of the word you are not sure about.
3. Try writing the word a few different ways, only changing the part that is circled in your original word.
4. Ask yourself which of your tries "looks right."
5. Record that choice on your draft as your corrected spelling.

Ask a Friend

This is one of the most common everyday strategies writers use. However, it is not always available and does not always work.

1. Locate a person in the room who knows a lot about spelling.
2. Check to see if they are busy.
3. If they are not busy, ask them if they know how to spell the word you have chosen.
4. Write down what they say.
5. Ask yourself if you agree with their spelling. If yes, replace your old spelling with the new one. If no, return to Step 1.

Use Common Spelling Rules and Patterns

In this center you will try to see if a common spelling rule applies to the word you have chosen.

1. Study the word you are interested in checking.
2. Look at the list of common spelling rules and patterns attached to this center.
3. See if you can identify any rules or patterns that would apply to your word.
4. If yes, try that rule out with your word to see if it works.
5. If no, try another strategy for that word. If you want you can choose another word from your draft that does follow a spelling rule and try it out.

Looking at Prefixes and Suffixes

In this center you will look to the beginnings and endings of words to see if those are spelled accurately.

1. Identify the word you want to study.
2. Look to the prefix and suffix list (arranged alphabetically) to see if you can find a beginning or ending that matches your word.
3. If so, check the spelling of that part and fix as necessary.
4. If not, use a different strategy for that word. (If you'd like, pick another word from your draft that has a prefix or a suffix to check.)