

Lesson 5 – Resource Sheet 2

From mountains to sea – a literacy focus

Feedback Ladder

The 'Feedback Ladder' is a scaffold used to provide positive feedback in the classroom. In doing so, it builds a culture of trust and constructive support.

When providing feedback students move through the following steps or 'rungs on the ladder'.

Step 1: Clarify

Students ask their partner clarifying questions. This ensures that they fully understand the idea or subject matter being written about. Students avoid clarifying questions that may be seen as a criticism.

Step 2: Value

Express an opinion about the idea or subject matter being written about. Do not, however, simply use terms such as 'good'. This will help the writer identify the strengths in their work. By providing constructive feedback participants are able to build trust and establish a supportive tone.

Step 3: State concerns or issues

State any concerns you might have about the writing but avoid absolutes such as "What's wrong is ..." Try to use qualified terms such as: "Perhaps you could ...", "Have you considered ...?", "Another way of approaching that would be to ..." Avoid criticising personal characteristics or ability of the writer to and focus on any specific idea.

Step 4: Suggest

Students make suggestions about how their partner might improve what has been written, drawing on the suggestion made in Step 3.