

# Sayback

Writer:

What do you hear me saying overall?

Responder:

Are you saying overall that ...?

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With Sayback we're basically checking with the writer to see if what we understand the writer's draft to be saying is what the writer meant to say. But this is also really helpful for us as readers in *figuring out* what a piece of writing is saying.

To give a writer a Sayback for his/her draft read the whole thing, then, try to sum up in a sentence what you feel the writer is "getting at." Feel free to try this with several "draft" sentences. Write your response in a mildly questioning tone that invites the writer to respond. Think of yourself as inviting the writer to restate and get closer to what s/he wants to say.

## It's Like:

Sayback is like what we do sometimes after we hear a teacher give a lot of instructions about an assignment. We ask to clarify, "*So, this draft will be due next week, but also part of the final portfolio?*"

Why do we ask a teacher that? Why might our friend want us to do that for his/her draft?

## Example:

"Are you saying overall that injustice has always existed and still exists?

Are you saying overall that injustice is usually about the majority oppressing the minority, like with Martin Luther King Jr.?

Are you saying overall that the fight against injustice starts within the minorities being oppressed?

Are you saying overall that justice can't be revenge, and that usually laws are about revenge?

Are you saying overall that injustice is when a government *says* it grants people rights but doesn't actually live up to what they say?"

## Tutor Notes on Sayback

### The Writer Can:

I think I'm saying overall ...

### Watch out for:

Just listing back smaller claims of the draft, or doing it paragraph by paragraph. Sayback should be about what the whole text is saying overall. Use Skeleton Feedback to look at individual claims.