

## BRINGING YOUR CASE TO LIFE TIPS FOR WRITERS

*One reason that cases are effective tools for professional development is that they highlight the complexity that teachers face in the real world. As teachers read the cases, they can see the connections to their own experiences. Bringing a case to life enhances the readers' ability to make those connections. Here are a few ways to bring your case to life.*

**Action:** describe things as they are happening

Example: "A few minutes late, Dan came into the conference room and sat down with a sigh."

**Detail:** include just enough to help create a picture for the reader

Example: "In the hallway the students were slamming their locker doors, laughing as they made their way to the buses. Chris was pleased to see that everyone in the PLC was already in the conference room and ready to get started."

**Dialogue:** reveal individuals' perspectives through their talk

Example: "The principal, Erin Hathaway, looked down at the table. She said, 'I do understand your problem. Truly, I do. Unfortunately, we need to make a choice, and we need to make it today.'"

**Internal Thoughts:** make your own and others' thinking visible

Example: "I considered asking Paul to back me up, but I was worried about putting him on the spot."

*Plus Two More:*

- You may find it helpful to **replay scenes** in your head in order to capture these elements to bring a case to life.
- For a few people, writing in the **third person** can free the writer to tell it as a story. For example, Tracy might give herself the pseudonym "Terri" and write, "Terri was excited to read the cases written by the teacher leaders."