

Writing Instruction at Stanbridge

Developing capacities for verbal expression and organized thinking.

Agenda:

- *Step up to Writing*: an update on the adoption process
- Writing instruction as a means to promote clear, organized, verbal expression
- Writing instruction and how we measure understanding
- Writing, social thinking, and executive function

Why emphasize writing instruction?

- *Clear, organized writing reflects clear, organized thinking.*
- Writing happens everywhere.
- Writing remains the most prevalent way that students demonstrate understanding of academic concepts, K-12 and beyond.
- If we are going to teach students to tell us what they know, we must give them the tools to do that.

Step up to Writing: Update on the Adoption Process

- School wide training during Staff Week in August
- Baseline writing samples during the first month
- Ongoing discussion and refining of our understanding
- Friday's topic: Writing Across the Curriculum (Emphasis: writing instruction must happen everywhere)
- We're at the very beginning, and there are hurdles

Strategies to Promote Clear, Organized Verbal Expression

Or...

Writing Tools for Showing What You Know

- Expanded Sentences
- Sentence Variety:
 - Three Types of Sentences: Simple (Complete) Sentences, Power Statements, and Occasion-Position Sentences
- Framed Responses and Paragraphs (including Sentence Starters)
- Accordion Paragraph as Slide Show / Presentation

Types of Sentences

- Encourage sentence variety
- Provide structure: the structure serves as a prompt
- Three examples:
 - Simple (complete) sentences
 - Power Statements
 - Occasion-Position Statements

Simple (Complete) Sentences

- Establish the basic unit of a sentence

A **complete sentence** tells at least one complete thought. It includes a subject (someone or something that acts) and a *predicate (an action)*. It also starts with a capital letter and ends with a period.

Example: The dog *ate the sandwich*.

Example: The giant, red trucks on the freeway *were heading to the rock concert*.

Example: Airplanes *fly in the sky*.

Example: My teacher *is a wonderful person*.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sentence Writing Practice: Complete Sentences
 Directions: Use each of the words in the list at the bottom of the page in a complete sentence. Your sentence should have at least five words in it.

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Example: The dog ate the sandwich.
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1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Word list: ball, small, fall, wall, red zone, green zone, yellow zone, strategy

Power Statements

- Use a number or quantity word (e.g. three, several, many, numerous, a myriad, etc.)
- As a topic sentence, help organize a paragraph
- Good for paragraphs that inform
 - There are three branches of the federal government.
 - There are several ways to grow vegetables in your apartment.
 - Einstein put forward several theories related to time travel.

Power Statements

A **power statement** uses a number or quantity word. Here are some number or quantity words:

- two, three, five, several, many, a lot

Example: There are several reasons that it is important to wear a seat belt.

Example: I know about three ways to calm down if you are in the red zone.

Example: Let me tell you about five ways to eat ice cream.

Example: There are many reasons why Star Wars is the best movie series.

Occasion – Position Sentences

- Two part sentence: set the stage, make the claim.
- Begin with: Even though, Although, When, If, If ever, Because, etc.
- Good topic sentences for paragraphs that inform or convince.
 - If you want to be safe in a car, where a seat belt.
 - Because beginning is the most difficult part of writing, it helps to have structured ways to write the first sentence.
 - Even though peaches are texturally offensive, they are a great food to include in your diet.

Occasion – Position Sentences

An **occasion-position sentence** has two parts: the first part begins with one of the following phrases.

The first part begins with one of the following words or phrases:
Even though... Although... Unless... After... When... If...

The second part finishes the thought.

Example: Even though candy tastes good, you shouldn't eat too much of it.

Example: After you get in a car, you should put on a seat belt.

Example: If you like to travel, go to London.

Example: If you want to live on Mars, you are going to need some specialized gear.

Framed Responses and Paragraphs

- Provide a very explicit structure for response
- Guide students very explicitly towards clear sentence or paragraph writing
- Not fill in the blank.

Framed Responses

- When I'm in the red zone, I can _____
_____.
- Even though _____, I still _____
_____.
- Luke Skywalker tries to _____.
- _____ tells about _____.
- _____ describes _____.

Sentence Starters

The nucleus of a cell contains...

Earth and Venus are similar because...

Earth and Venus are different because...

When an photogenic ionic nebulizer resurfaces atop a plateau...

Framed Paragraphs

Stanbridge Academy is a _____ school for _____ . We use _____ so that students _____ to their _____ .



October 24, 2017

Tomorrow, I am _____ to In-N-Out Burger with _____ . One thing I should bring with me is _____ . When we get there, I hope to see _____ and _____ . One thing I wonder about In-N-Out is _____ . Another thing I wonder about is _____ . I hope _____ . I also hope I do not _____ .

If I am in the _____ zone at In-N-Out I can _____ . I can also _____ . If I am in the _____ zone, I can _____ .

Tomorrow, I am going to In-N-Out Burger with 206 and 205. One thing I should bring with me is headphones. When we get there, I would listen to the guide telling me what to do. Also, I want to see how the food is made and how the machines work. One thing I wonder about is how long it takes. Another thing I wonder about is how they make the fries. I hope to behave. I also hope that I don't misbehave.

If I am in the green zone I can behave. If I am in the red zone I can calm down.

Accordion Paragraphs

- The accordion paragraph is the most important part of *Step up to Writing*
- It provides a structure to how to write an entire paragraph and an essay
- It can be used to inform, describe, convince, retell, etc.

Accordion Paragraph: the basic structure

Topic Sentence

- Reason, Detail, or Fact
- Reason, Detail, or Fact
- Reason, Detail, or Fact

Conclusion

Topic Sentence

- Reason, Detail, or Fact
 - Explanation, Elaboration, or Evidence
- Reason, Detail, or Fact
 - Explanation, Elaboration, or Evidence
- Reason, Detail, or Fact
 - Explanation, Elaboration, or Evidence

Conclusion

Accordion Paragraph: Example

Even though they are hard to find and harder to make, a light saber is a much better weapon than a blaster. First of all, a light saber is highly versatile. Second, in a battle, a light saber can easily defend against a blaster. Finally, the light saber commands respect. If you have to choose, definitely go with the light saber.

Accordion Paragraph: Example

Even though they are hard to find and harder to make, a light saber is a much better weapon than a blaster. First of all, a light saber is highly versatile. You can cut through walls, deflect incoming missiles, and light up dark caves. Second, in a battle, a light saber can easily defend against a blaster. It deflects and absorbs the blasts from a blaster. Finally, the light saber commands respect. The second you ignite a light saber, people know you are a highly trained warrior. They will most likely leave you alone. If you have to choose, definitely go with the light saber.

Writing and Executive Function

- Initiation the writing task: structure, framework, and a vision of the final product.
- Assignment = Assessment

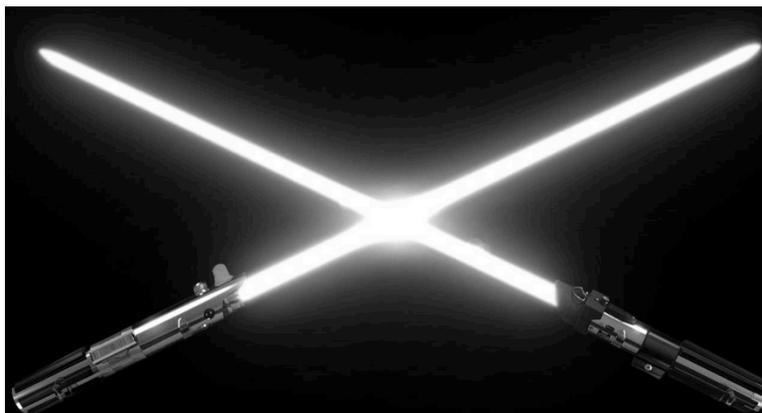
Assignment:

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Create a presentation to convince an audience of something. Follow these guidelines:

- Write in complete sentences, using correct grammar and punctuation.
- **First slide:** Make your claim. Use an Occasion-Position Sentence. Include a picture.
- **Second slide:** Provide a reason, detail, or fact that supports your claim. Include a picture.
- **Third slide:** Explain or elaborate on the previous slide.
- **Fourth slide:** Provide a reason, detail, or fact that supports your claim. Include a picture.
- **Fifth slide:** Explain or elaborate on the previous slide
- **Sixth slide:** Provide a reason, detail, or fact that supports your claim. Include a picture.
- **Seventh slide:** Explain or elaborate on the previous slide
- **Last Slide:** Write a conclusion. Include a picture.

Even though they are hard to find and harder to make, a light saber is a much better weapon than a blaster.



First of all, a light saber is highly versatile.



You can cut through walls, deflect incoming missiles, and light up dark caves.

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It deflects and absorbs the blasts from a blaster.

Finally, the light saber
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Grading Rubric

- 4=Met all of the guideline
- 3=Met most of the guideline
- 2=Met some of the guideline
- 1=Included the slide, but did not meet the guideline
- 0=Did not include the slide

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Writing and Social Learning

- Audience: someone who doesn't know what you know
- Audience: a person who needs to be informed, persuaded, or entertained
- Audience: your teacher (who gave you a clear assignment and will grade your work)
- Audience: your friends
- Audience: social media