**SENTENCE PARAMETERS**

***A PROMPT TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS CRAFT ARTFUL SENTENCES***

The **Art of the Sentence (AOS) technique** asksstudents to synthesize a complex idea in a single, well-crafted sentence. Having one sentence do all the work pushes students to use new grammatical forms, structure their sentences in new ways, and diversify their syntax and word choice. Additionally, this raises student awareness of excellent sentences written by others, and with some instruction they may learn to copy and adapt these sophisticated structures.

This is the second in a series of Grab and Go resources (<http://teachlikeachampion.com/resources/grab-and-go/>) to help teachers with their sentence prompts.

**Prompt 2: Sentence Parameters**, are specific words, phrases, or structures you give to students to use anywhere in the sentence. Your choice of parameter depends on your goals for students' reading and/or discussion and what you'd like them to practice as writers.

Using sentence parameters, you might ask students to include a specific word or phrase. (“Use the phrase **‘internal conflict’** in your sentence.”) This is particularly effective for providing opportunities to reinforce vocabulary words, especially technical vocabulary words important in reading (irony, conflict, characterization, and so on). Although the benefits of sentence parameters overlap with those of sentence starters, they also allow more student autonomy in how the sentence takes shape.

**Sample Sentence Parameters.** Here are a few ideas to get you started setting sentence parameters for your students:

* Explain how and why Templeton supported Charlotte in her plan to save Wilbur. Use the word “motivated” in your response.
* Explain the conflict Steinbeck develops in the opening to *The Grapes of Wrath*. Use the phrase “antagonistic relationship” in your response.
* Describe the introduction to Kurt Vonnegut's “Harrison Bergeron.” Include this phrase: “Vonnegut juxtaposes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
* Summarize the data from this graph in one complete, well-written sentence. Use the word “exponentially” in your sentence.