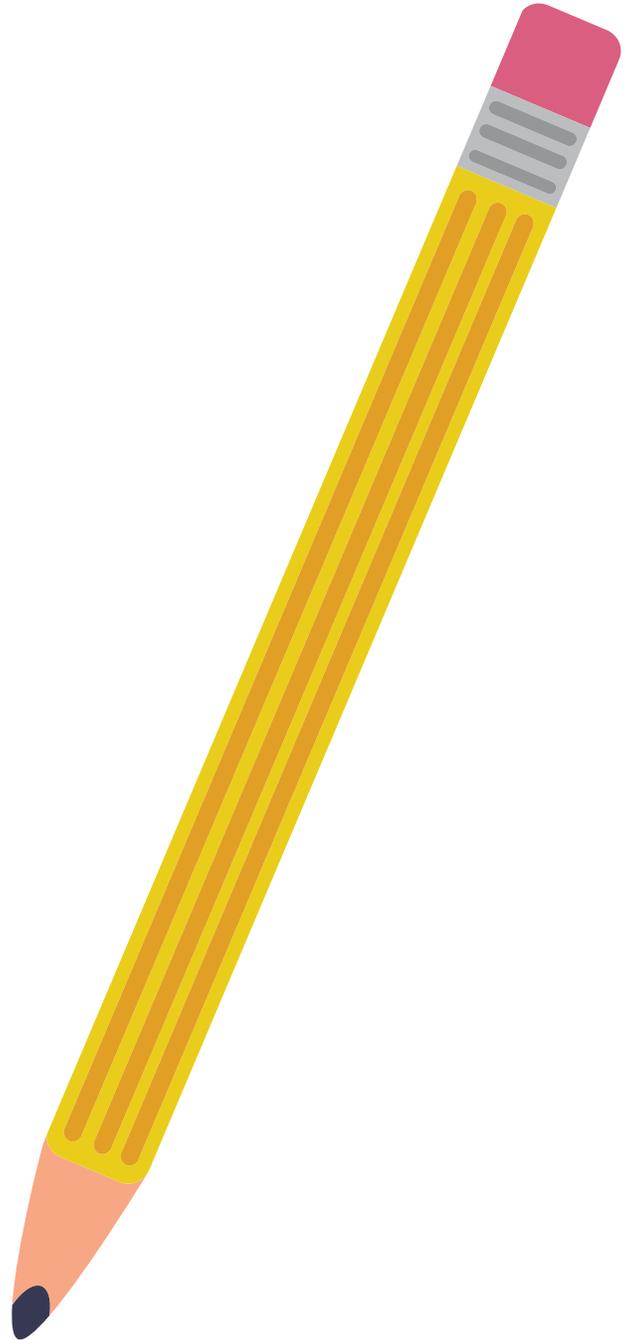


Ask students to synthesize a complex idea in a single, well-crafted sentence.

The discipline of having to make one sentence do all the work pushes students to use new syntactical forms.



ART OF THE SENTENCE

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Build Confident Writers Through Revision

Use sentence level revision to strengthen student syntactical control, which will make your students better writers regardless of the type of writing they undertake.

Consider this guide, using the plot of *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

1. Start with a sentence stem.

Ex. Jonas took the baby Gabriel and left.

2. Have students revise the sentence stem using three different branches: But...; Because...; So...;[i]

Ex. Jonas took the baby Gabriel and left but it was not clear where they were going or if they would survive.

Ex. Jonas took the baby Gabriel and left because he realized Gabriel was going to be released.

Ex. Jonas took the baby Gabriel and left so they were forced to travel through unknown territory without a clear destination.

3. Revise the sentence with this challenge: Choose one of your sentences and add an introductory prepositional phrase.

Ex. In desperation, Jonas took the baby Gabriel and left but it was not clear where they were going or if they would survive.

4. Ask students to expand upon any areas that are vague in their sentence.

Ex. Improve the word "left" in the above sentence. Jonas took the baby Gabriel and escaped but it was not clear where they were going or if they would survive.

5. Consider changing the tense of the sentence.

Ex. Jonas takes the baby Gabriel and leaves and they are forced to travel through unknown territory without a clear destination.

Read about sentence level revision on the blog:

<http://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/three-types-writing-classroom/>

Find more developmental writing assignments and suggestions on the blog:

<http://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/developmental-writing-especially-useful-w-short-assignments-fast-revision/>

[i] Hochman, Judith C. and Natalie Wexler. *The Writing Revolution: A Guide to Advancing Thinking Through Writing in All Subjects and Grades*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2017. Print.