**THE SENTENCE STARTER**

***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.

**The Sentence Starter** provides students with specific words or phrases to, well, start their sentences.

**Sample Sentence Starters.** You can arm your students with an arsenal of rigorous writing tools by introducing multiple syntactical structures over time. For example:

* Describe the settings of the first two pages of Chapter 2. Start your sentence with “Babbitt juxtaposes…”
* In one sentence, explain how Ramona's actions affected her sister. Start with, “After Ramona…”
* Explain Fern's and Mr. Arable's differing viewpoints on how to treat the runt of the litter. Start your sentence with, “While Fern believes…”
* Describe the opening to Kurt Vonnegut's “Harrison Bergeron.” Start your sentence with “In Vonnegut's satiric portrayal…”

**Be Strategic.** Here are some habits of thinking that you may want to encourage students to do more of in your literacy class:

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| * Referring to evidence * Synthesizing evidence | * Summarizing ideas * Revising initial thinking * Supporting or refuting an argument |

**Brainstorm Sentence Starters** that support students to do the type of thinking you’ve identified above. We’ve given some examples on the next page.

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| **SAMPLE SENTENCE STARTERS** |
| In light of all the evidence…  After considering the options…  Upon further reflection…  In contrast to…  Whereas…  Similarly…  To illustrate… |

**For more on the topic.** Please see **Chapter 4: Writing for Reading** in *Reading Reconsidered* by Doug Lemov, Colleen Driggs, and Erica Woolway. The Art of the Sentence (AOS) technique is also highlighted in *Teach Like a Champion 2.0*. You can also find out more at teachlikeachampion.com. Please note that there are two other sentence prompts, **Sentence Parameter** and **Nondenominationals**. We’ll have Grab and Go’s available for both of those prompts these next two months, so please be sure to [check back on the site](http://teachlikeachampion.com/resources/grab-and-go/).