

Sentence Surgery

Making Each Sentence Count in Content and Style

Agenda

1. Inspecting Parts of a Sentence and Possible Arrangements
2. Imitating Sentences
3. Quick Reflect: Determining the Need and the Goal
4. Introducing Grammar Tools for Sentence Fluency Bookmark
5. Learning the 6 Tools (Jigsaw)
6. Practice Time (partners): Imitation to Creation
7. Student Examples
8. A Teaching Timeline
9. Revision Time (independent)
10. Reflection
11. Resources

Inspecting Parts of a Sentence and Possible Arrangements

- Subject, Predicate, Tools (aka: Skeleton and Flesh)
 - Tools: Words, Phrases and Dependent Clauses that Add Detail to Sentences
 - Dependent Clause Trigger Words: after, although, as, before, because, how, if, since, that, though, until, whom, whose, who, what, when, where, why, which, while
 - Tool Length: Short, Medium, Long (Consider the value of each)
 - Tool Arrangement in a Sentence: Opener, S-V Split, Closer
 - Set Tools Off with Commas (Prevent run-ons and provide a pause for the reader)

Imitating Sentences

1. Find a model sentence you like the sound of from a book, magazine, etc.
2. Notice the subject, predicate, tools and punctuation
3. Imitate the sentence using your own ideas to build a sentence all your own
4. Repeat. Read Often. Keep a running list of sentences you admire

Resources

Killgallon, Don & Jenny. *Sentence Composing for Elementary / Middle / High School*.

Killgallon, Don & Jenny. *Story Grammar for Elementary / Middle / High School*.

Matulis, Beverly. "Dancing with the Authors" (5th grade teacher in Bay City Public Schools and Saginaw Bay Writing Project fellow) - PDF available online