Grammar Mini-Lesson

*Anna Haschke December 2, 2013*

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| *Day 13: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 ~ 15 minutes* |
| Lesson Topic: Sentence variation: 10 ways to begin a sentence |
| Context: As my students are beginning to write the drafts for their narratives, I am noticing that some of their sentence structure is quite repetitive. I believe it would be beneficial for us to take some time to go over some of the basic patterns with which one can start sentences to help them add variety to their writing. |
| Goal: Students will understand the need for sentence variation in their writing, and become familiar with different sentence patterns. |
| Objective: Students will come up with example sentences for each of the 10 basic sentence starter patterns. |
| * Standard: [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.1](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/L/11-12/1/) Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. |
| Materials: PowerPoint |
| Anticipatory Set: Read a few sentences that all start with the same pattern. Then read a few sentences that have the same basic information, but use different patterns. Ask them which set of sentences was more interesting to hear. |
| Teaching: Start by explaining that writing is more engaging when there is variety. On a PowerPoint I will display 10 different sentence starter patterns. I will go over them to make sure the students understand the different parts of the sentence. (There may be need for some short review on some of the terms like absolute phrase, participial phrase, and infinitive phrase.)  Sentence patterns with examples for the PowerPoint:   1. Noun: Cats peered from cages. 2. Article + noun: The cats peered from cages. 3. Adjective + noun: Anxious cats peered from cages. 4. Pronoun: They peered from cages. 5. Adverb: Unhappily, cats peered from cages. 6. Absolute phrases: Eyes wide, ears twitching, cats peered from cages. 7. Participial phrase: Munching on stale fish, cats peered from cages. 8. Prepositional phrase: Beneath the glow of a full moon, cats peered from cages. 9. Infinitive phrase: To watch for prowling rats, cats peered from cages. 10. Adverbial clause: As the half moon arose in the dingy sky like a hunk of rancid cheese, cats peered from cages.   (Adapted from Polette p.52) |
| Activity: Ask students to take out a piece of paper and write a short story (about a paragraph long) using each of the 10 different sentence patterns. Ask students to label the sentence patterns to show they understand what they are using. Students will then share their stories with the class. |