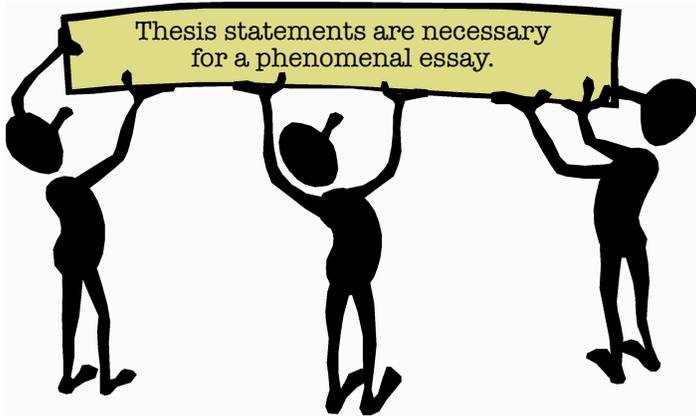


Essay Essentials

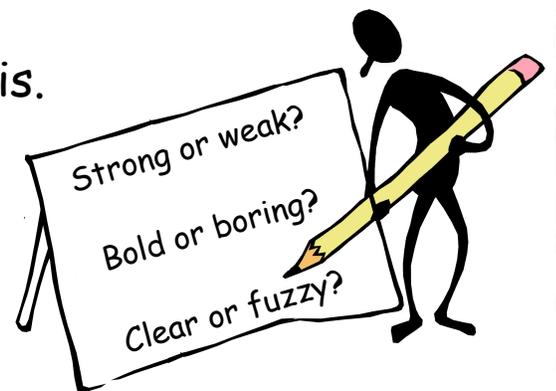


I can craft a strong central idea (thesis) based on a prompt.

Bold or Boring?



1. Sort the strips into **STRONG** and **WEAK** statements.
2. Identify YOUR thesis statement.
3. Underline your thesis with yellow.
4. Evaluate the strength of your thesis.
5. Revise as needed.



Reflection:

- How does my thesis direct my essay?
- How does the quality of my thesis impact my reasons and elaboration?



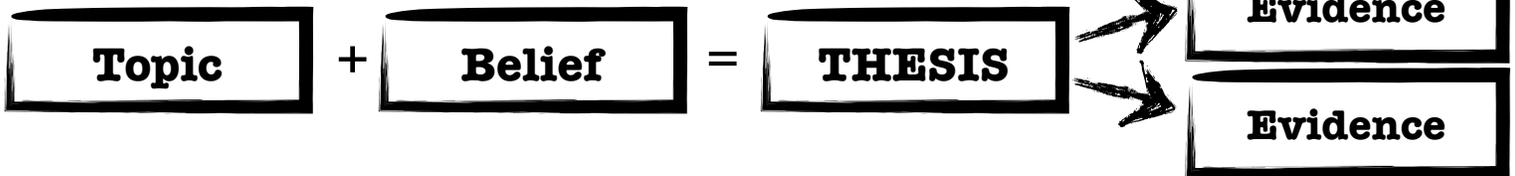
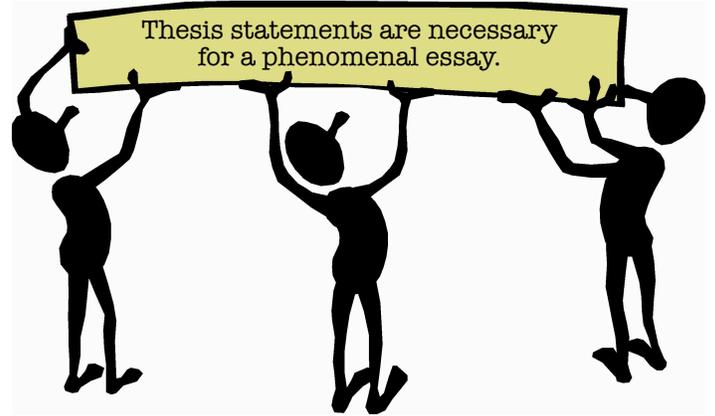


Essay Essentials

Making a Strong Bold Statement

I can craft a strong central idea (thesis) based on a prompt.

When preparing to write an essay, writers must establish a clear **central idea**, which is communicated in a **thesis statement**. This is the foundation of the essay. ALL subsequent ideas must be **strongly related** to the central idea and focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is **unified** and **coherent**.



A **STRONG** thesis statement:

- **declares** what you **believe** and what you intend to **prove**.
- **unifies** your essay.
- is **clear** and specific.
- is what **ties** your evidence **together**.
- is absolutely **necessary** for a phenomenal essay.

A **WEAK** thesis statement:

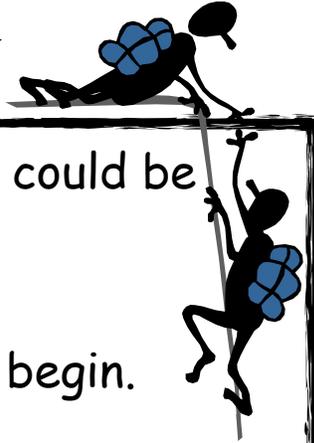
- announces and make **NO claim**.
- is the **obvious** statement.
- is **cliché**.
- is an **opinion** statement instead of a claim.
- is the overly **broad** statement.
- is a **question**.

Essay Essentials



I can compose and edit a complex sentence using the subordinating conjunction and comma correctly.

AAAWWWUBIS Alterations



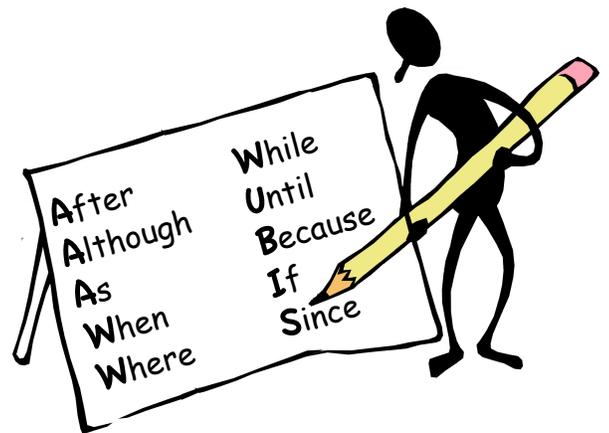
1. **Reread** your paper and find a sentence or two that could be changed to an AAWWWUBIS sentence.
2. **Cross** out your original sentence.
3. **Rewrite** the sentence using an AAWWWUBIS to begin.
Be sure to include the comma.
4. **Repeat** with any other sentences you could change.
5. **Check** one more time to make sure you used commas!

Ex. **When** I see the look on her face, I know she's glad I'm home.

Secret Agent Tip:

If you cover up the AAWWWUBIS, you have two complete sentences.

Your comma goes between them.



Reflection:

- When are AAWWWUBIS words helpful?
- How does adding an AAWWWUBIS word affect the quality of my essay?



Essay Essentials

Introductory Clauses



Learning Target

I can compose and edit a complex sentence using the subordinating conjunction and comma correctly.

Dependent Clause

,

simple sentence.

A

After = **After** she dressed herself for school, Abilene dressed Edward.

A

Although = **Although** Abilene was getting a bit old for such things as china rabbits, Abilene's father let her take Edward on the ship.

A

As = **As** he settled on the ocean floor, face-down, with his head in the muck, Edward experienced his first genuine and true emotion. Edward Tulane was afraid.

W

When = **When** she saw Edward, Nellie dropped the apron and clapped her hands together and said, "Oh, Lawrence, you brung me a rabbit."

W

While = **while** Bull and Lucy slept, Edward, with his ever-open eyes, stared up at the constellations.

U

Until = **until** he was cradled in the arms of Sarah Ruth, Edward had never experienced the sensation of being held so gently yet so fiercely.

B

Before = **Before** he closed the shop, Lucius Clarke placed another doll on the shelf next to Edward.

B

Because = **Because** the baby doll said, "You disappoint me," Edward felt his heart stir.

I

If = **if** you have no intention of loving or being love, then the whole journey is pointless.

S

Since = **Since** Abilene still had Edward's pocket watch, Edward knew his journey had come to a happy ending filled with love.



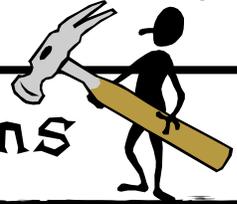
Essay Essentials



I can compose and edit a compound sentence using the coordinating conjunction and comma correctly.



Combining with Conjunctions



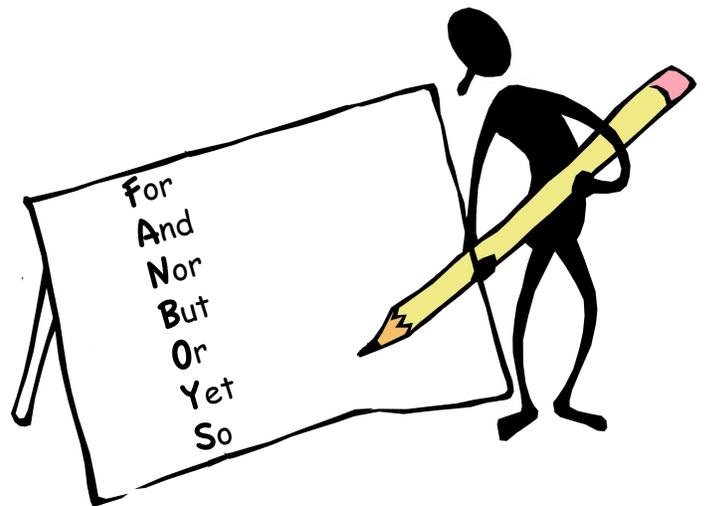
1. **Reread** your paper and find two sentences that could be combined using a FANBOYS.
2. **Add** an appropriate FANBOYS.
Be sure to include the comma.
3. **Repeat** with any other sentences you could change.
4. **Check** one more time to make sure you used commas!

Ex. The lake is a special place, and it has shaped who I am today.

Secret Agent Tip:

If you cover up the FANBOYS, you have two complete sentences.

****Your comma goes BEFORE the FANBOYS.****



Reflection:

- When are FANBOYS helpful?
- How does adding an FANBOYS word affect the quality of my essay?



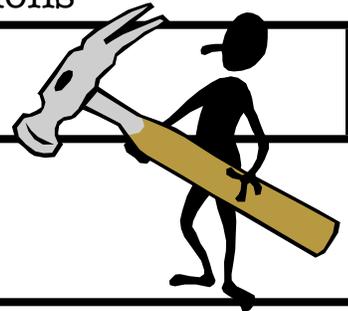
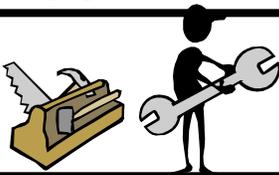
Essay Essentials



Learning Target

Combining Sentences with Conjunctions

I can compose and edit a compound sentence using the comma and conjunction correctly.



Sentence 1

,

conjunction

sentence 2.

F

for = because (shows logical consequences; cause-effect)

Edward looked at the stars and felt no comfort, **for** he was all alone.

A

and = along with, in addition (joins together; adds info)

The birds returned, **and** the old woman came back to the garden.

N

nor = or (negative point)

Edward had never been cradled like a baby by Abilene, **nor** had he been cradled by Nellie.

B

but = except, however, on the other hand (shows contrast)

Normally, Edward would have found intrusive, clingy behavior of this sort very annoying, **but** there was something about Sarah Ruth.

O

or = (indicates choice)

Would Edward learn to love, **or** would he remain selfish?

Y

yet = but (shows contrast)

Sarah Ruth held Edward gently, **yet** she stared down at him with a fierce love.

S

so = therefore, as a result (shows logical consequences; cause-effect)

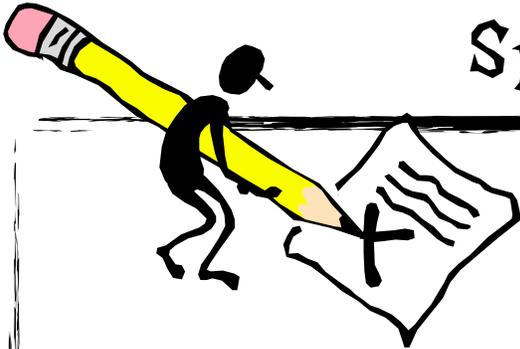
The father dropped Edward on the bed, **so** Bryce picked up the rabbit and landed him to Sarah Ruth.

Essay Essentials



I can edit an essay by looking for commonly misspelled words and words that follow spelling rules.

Spruce Up Spelling



1. **Reread** your paper and **circle** words you think are misspelled.
2. **Check** the **Commonly Misspelled Word List** to see if there are words there for you.
3. **Reread** your paper **AGAIN** and **underline** any words with -ing endings.
4. **Check** through the **Spelling Rules List** to remind you of specific ways words change when we add endings.

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Commonly Misspelled Word List
- Spelling Rules List
- Write Source Textbook
- Dictionary or Dictionary.com



Reflection:

- How does spelling impact your readers' appreciation of your writing?
- How can multiple sources be used effectively and efficiently?



Essay Essentials



Learning Target

Commonly Misspelled Words

I can edit an essay by looking for commonly misspelled words and words that follow spelling rules.

A
a lot
accept
again
against
alright
always
an
and
animals
another
answer
around
asked

B
babies
beautiful
because
before
believe
between
bought
brought

C
came
caught
children
clothes
coming
common
course
cousin

D
decided
didn't
different
dropped

E
every
excited
except

F
favorite
first
for
friend
friends
frightened
from

G
getting
going

H
happening
happiest
hear
heard
her
here
him

I
interesting
its
it's

J
jumped

K
knew
know

L
let's
like
little
looked

M
many
moment
money
morning
mother

N
name
named

O
of
off
once
our

P
people
pleasing
pretty

Q
quick
quiet
quit
quite

R
really
received
remember
running

S
said
school
some
something
sometimes
started
stopped
surprise
swimming

T
than
that's
their
then
there
they
they're

things
thought
threw
through
to
together
too
tried
two

U
until

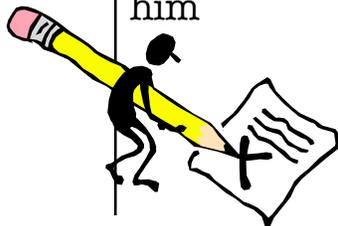
V
very

W
wanted
we're
went
were
when
where
with
woman
wonder
would

X

Y
your
you're

Z
zest



Essay Essentials

Spelling Rules



I can edit an essay by looking for commonly misspelled words and words that follow spelling rules.

Words Ending in “i”

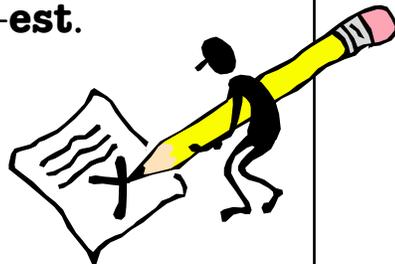
For words that end in **-y**, change **y** to **i** and add **-es**, **-est**, **-er**, or **-ly**.

Words Ending in “f”

For words that end in **-f** or **-fe**, remove **-f** or **-fe** and add **-ves**.

Double the Final Consonant

For words that end in consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC), you must **double the final consonant** of the root word when adding **-ing**, **-er**, or **-est**.



Spell “shun”

Use **-sion** when the root word ends in **-d**, **-de**, **-se**, or **-t**.

Use **-cion** for root words that are about people

Use **-tion** for everything else.

Drop Final -e

When a word ends in **e**, remove the **e** when adding **-ing**, **-er**, or **-est**.

Use i Before e

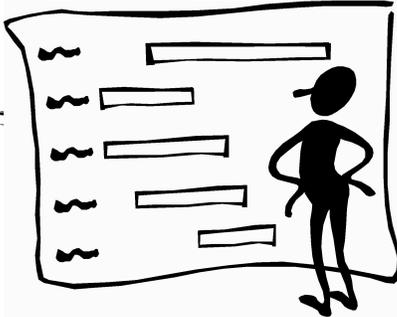
Use **i** before **e** except after **c** or when the vowel sounds like **a**.

Essay Essentials



Learning Target

I can use sensory details to describe experiences and events precisely.
I can express ideas using carefully-chosen words.

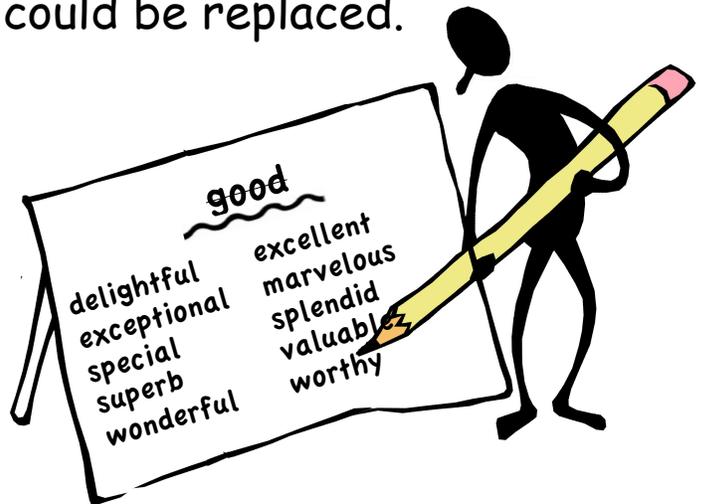


Vivid Vocabulary

1. **Reread** your paper and put a wiggly line under any specific vocabulary words you used.
2. **Check** for bland words (good, stuff, cool, fun, nice), and ~~strikethrough~~ it.
3. **Look** through a **thesaurus** for stronger words to use.
4. **Replace** or **rename** the bland word with something more vivid.
5. **Reread** your paper to a thinking buddy, focusing specifically on vocabulary and ~~bland~~ words that could be replaced.

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Thesaurus or Thesaurus.com
- Sensory Word Lists
- Thinking Buddy



Reflection:

- How do vivid words impact your writing?
- How can an incorrectly chosen replacement word affect your writing?



Essay Essentials



Using Sensory Details to Paint Pictures with Words

I can use sensory details to describe experiences and events precisely.

I can express ideas using carefully-chosen words.

As readers, we rely on writers' words to paint vivid pictures in our minds. Revered writers tap into the five senses to transfer images from their imaginations to those of their readers. As writers, it is our responsibility to use sensory details to make the invisible visible, to allow silent pages to sound, to enable fingers to feel something other than flat pages, to cause our tastebuds to tingle, and to stimulate the sense of scent.

Sight

The sense of **sight** is one that provides most of the detail for our stories. Our words become our readers' eyes, giving us a blank canvas upon which to paint a picture.



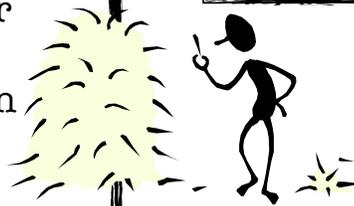
Sound

To make the pictures in our readers' minds come alive, we must tailor our writing to other senses, as well. **Sound** adds another dimension to the image. As writers, we can describe from where the sound is coming, how close it is, and how the source of the sound affects the characters.



Touch

Use of words related to the sense of **touch** allows readers to experience things they might never be able to or even want to touch. These kinds of descriptions can create sensations in your fingertips or they can even make your skin crawl.



Smell

Sense of **smell** is powerful. With one whiff, a smell can transport a reader back in time. By including details related to smell, you can spark a memory and allow your reader to connect in a meaningful and mouthwatering manner.



Taste

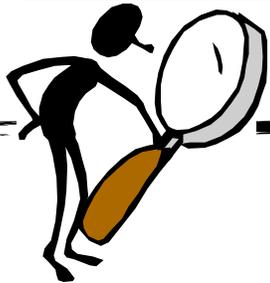
Sometimes, a sentence or two can make a reader salivate. As a writer, you have the power to prepare a **tasty** treat by mixing together a description so delicious the reader devours it.



Essay Essentials



I can edit an essay by looking for capitalization errors.



Capitalization Gaper

1. **Reread** your paper and underline twice each word that needs to be capitalized.
2. **Check** for specific names of people, places, and things. These include brands! Remember to capitalize the first letter of each word in the title.
3. **Look** at your title. (If you don't have one, write one now!)
4. **Make** sure that ALL important words of your title are capitalized.
5. **Strikethrough** any capitalized words that need to be lowercase.

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Capitalization Rules
- Write Source Textbook
- Interactive Grammar Notebook



Reflection:

- Why is correct capitalization important when writing?
- How can multiple sources support the editing process?



Essay Essentials

Capitalization Rules

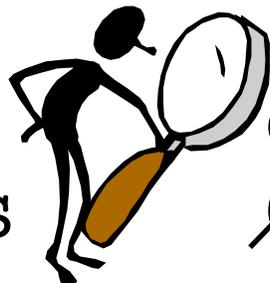


I can edit an essay by looking for capitalization errors.

Capitalize:

- the **first word** in **every sentence**.
- names** of people and pets.
- names** of streets, towns, cities, states, and countries.
- the word **I**.
- days, months, and holidays**.
- important **events** in history.
- important (specific) **buildings** or places.
- companies**.
- important words in a **title** of a **book** or **article**.
- the **first word** in **quotations**.

P N
proper nouns



~~c~~ ~~n~~
~~Common Nouns~~

Essay Essentials



I can edit an essay by looking for punctuation errors.

Punctuation Power



1. **Reread** your paper and **circle** in purple the end mark at the end of each sentence.
2. **Check** to make sure your sentences are complete and make sense.
Alert: You cannot just put a period in a random place. A period tells your reader to stop.
3. **Check** to make sure your end punctuation matches the type of sentence you have written.
4. **Check** your use of apostrophes ('), commas (,), and quotation marks (" ").

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Grammar Rules
- Write Source Textbook
- Interactive Grammar Notebook



Reflection:

- Why is correct punctuation important when writing?
- How can thoughtful punctuation make your writing more powerful?



Essay Essentials

Punctuation Rules

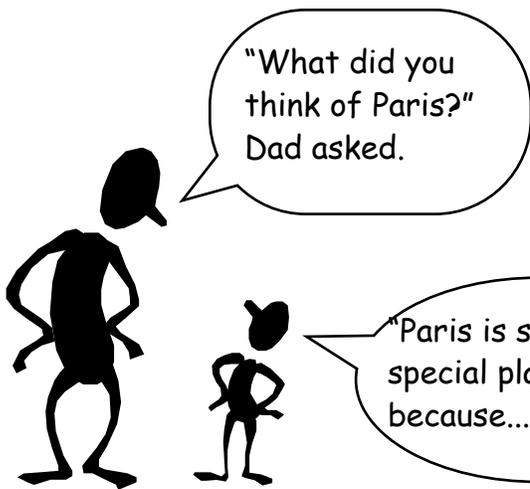


Learning Target

I can edit an essay by looking for punctuation errors.

Add commas (,):

- between words in a series.
- between cities and states.
- between the day and year in a date.
- to separate the speaker and the words spoken in a quotation.
- to join two complete sentences with a conjunction (FANBOYS).

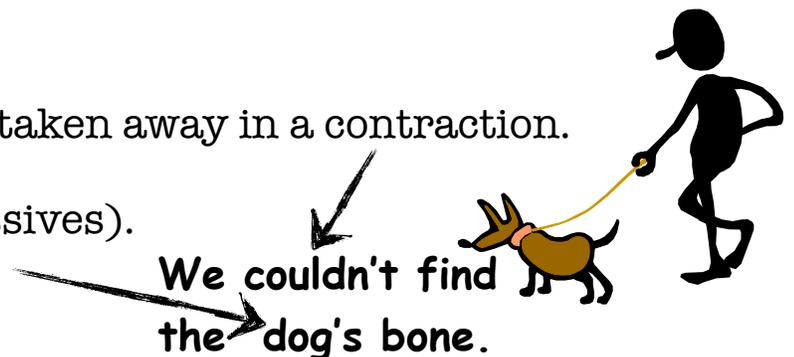


Add quotation marks (“ ”):

- to show exactly what someone says.

Add apostrophes ('):

- to take the place of letters taken away in a contraction.
- to show ownership (possessives).

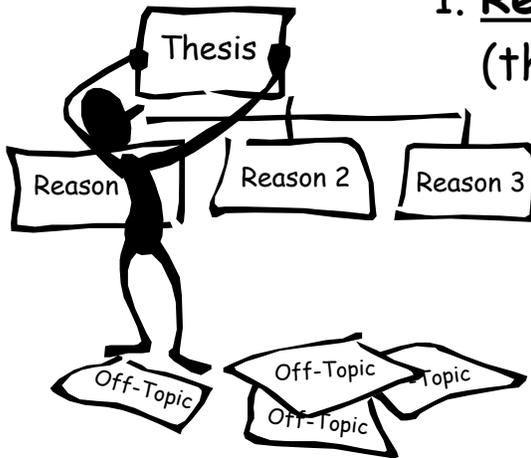


Essay Essentials



I can connect my thesis to my supporting evidence by using topic sentences.

FOCUS ON FOCUS



1. **Remind** yourself of your central idea (thesis).

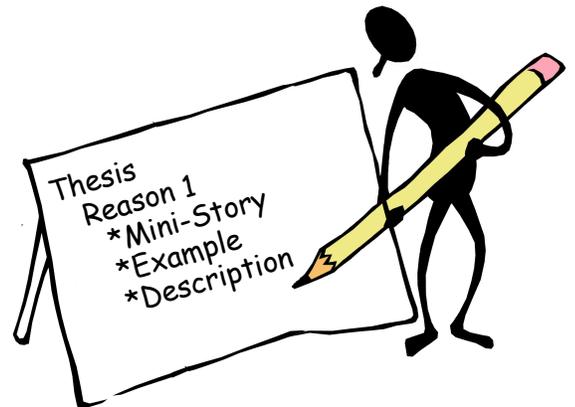
2. **Underline** the topic sentence for each paragraph in red.

3. **Reread** your paper, and cross out any sentences that are about something other than your thesis.

4. **Ask** yourself if the examples, mini stories, and descriptions match the reasons and the central idea (thesis).

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Write Source Textbook
- Boxes & Bullets Graphic Organizer



Reflection:

- Why is it important to make sure your reasons support your thesis?
- How can you





Essay Essentials

I can connect my thesis to my supporting evidence by using topic sentences.

Hook (Circle one)

Capture your reader's attention with:

- dialogue / a quote
- a question
- an amazing fact
- onomatopoeia (sound)
- a description
- why it matters

Thesis (Central Idea)

Briefly and clearly **state** your belief.



Transition

Reason 1

(Topic Sentence)

Support your belief.

Why do you believe?

Why is it important?

Elaboration (Circle one)

Connect back to your thesis using:

Mini story

- One time...
- I'll never forget the time when...
- I remember when...
- This makes me think of...
- It all started when...

Example

- For example...
- For instance...
- An illustration of this is...
- Such as

Description

- Can you imagine...
- It's hard to believe, but...
- This is like...
- Incredibly...
- You'd be amazed at...

Transition

Reason 2

(Topic Sentence)

Support your belief.

Why do you believe?

Why is it important?

Elaboration (Circle one)

Connect back to your thesis using:

Mini story

- One time...
- I'll never forget the time when...
- I remember when...
- This makes me think of...
- It all started when...

Example

- For example...
- For instance...
- An illustration of this is...
- Such as

Description

- Can you imagine...
- It's hard to believe, but...
- This is like...
- Incredibly...
- You'd be amazed at...

Conclusion / Restate

Restate your thesis statement using:

- main idea questions
- word referents
- hypothetical anecdote
- general restate

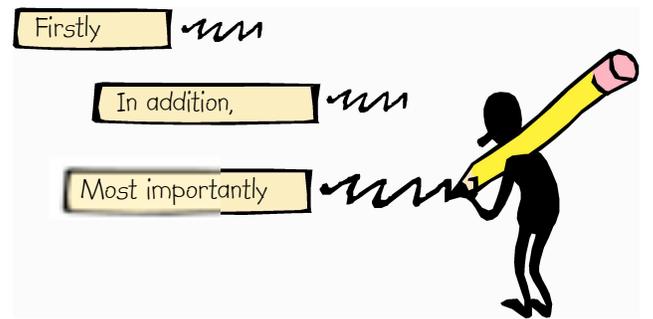
Essay Essentials



I can use well-chosen transition words to improve the effectiveness and cohesiveness of an essay.

Tying It Together with Transitions

1. **Reread** your paper, and **underline** in green the transition words and phrases connecting your paragraphs.
2. **Consider** both word and idea links as you seek to strengthen the connection between your reasons.
3. **Experiment** with various transitions, **rereading** the two connecting paragraphs.
4. **Think** about the structure of your text, and be sure your ideas build on one another as you construct a clear defense for your thesis.



Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Write Source Textbook
- Transition Words and Phrases



Reflection:

- How do transitions strengthen your essay?
- How does word and idea links differ?



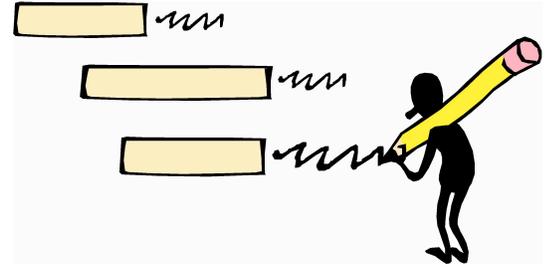
Essay Essentials

Tying it Together with Topic Sentences



I can connect my thesis to my supporting evidence by using topic sentences.

In order for an essay to sound smooth and sophisticated, a writer's progression of ideas needs to be logical and well controlled. **Meaningful transitions** and **strong sentences-to-sentence connections** enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the **relationships** among ideas, making the writer's train of thought easy to follow.



As you move from paragraph to paragraph, a strong writer will utilize a variety of topic sentences and transition words to **build a case** for his / her claim. The cause-effect relationship between the thesis and the supporting evidence enables the writer to use the topic sentence starters like the ones below:

If..., then...

Example:

- **If** you enjoy a challenge, **then** mountain biking may be an excellent sport for you.

Even though...

Example:

- **Even though** mountain biking is strenuous, the scenery makes up for it.

When

Example:

- **When** you are looking for an adventurous sport to try, consider mountain biking.

Since

Example:

- **Since** there are many mountains in Colorado, mountain biking is an excellent summer sport for residents.

* Additional transition words and phrases can be found on the next page.*

In addition to moving from one paragraph to the next, writers consider **organization** and **structure**. Will you order your reasons **chronologically** (time order) or **in order of importance** (from least to most powerful)?

Essay Essentials



Learning Target

Transition Words and Phrases

I can use well-chosen transition words to improve the effectiveness and cohesiveness of an essay.

To Show Order

- * after
- * at this time
- * before
- * during
- * finally
- * first
- * following
- * next
- * previously
- * second
- * since
- * soon
- * then
- * third
- * while



To Add Information

- * additionally
- * along with
- * also
- * another
- * as well
- * besides
- * finally
- * for example
- * for instance
- * furthermore
- * in addition
- * too



To Give Examples

- * evidence of this
- * for example
- * for instance
- * in this case
- * proof of this
- * such as



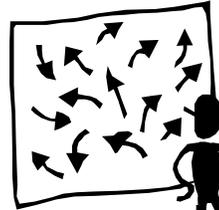
To Indicate a Purpose or Reason

- * because
- * furthermore
- * in fact
- * in order to
- * so that
- * with this in mind



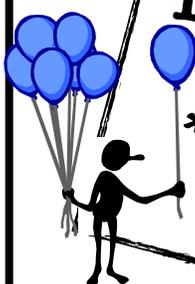
To Contrast

- * but
- * except
- * however
- * in contrast
- * in spite of
- * nevertheless
- * on the other hand
- * sometimes
- * whereas
- * yet



To Compare

- * as
- * compared to
- * for the same reason
- * like
- * similar to
- * similarly



To Emphasize

- * absolutely
- * always
- * definitely
- * in fact
- * never
- * particularly
- * positively
- * without a doubt



To Conclude

- * all in all
- * as a result
- * finally
- * hence
- * in brief
- * in conclusion
- * in summary
- * lastly
- * overall
- * therefore
- * thus
- * to sum up

Essay Essentials



I can use figurative language to add voice to my writing.

Squeezing in a Simile

1. **Reread** your paper and find a sentence or two in which you could add a simile.
2. **Consider** how you can make a comparison between the topic in your central idea (thesis) and something totally different with which it has one thing in common.
3. **Remember**, a simile is a comparison using "like" or "as."
4. **Explain** your simile to the reader through additional details.

Ex. My grandpa is like a teddy bear because he is warm and has a soft heart.

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Write Source Textbook
- Interactive Poetry Notebook



Reflection:

- How can a simile add sophistication to your essay?
- What kinds of comparisons are more effective when writing similes?



Essay Essentials



I can use figurative language to add voice to my writing.

Magnificent Metaphors

1. **Reread** your paper and find a sentence or two in which you could add a metaphor.
2. **Consider** how you can make a comparison between the topic in your central idea (thesis) and something totally different with which it has one thing in common.
3. **Remember**, a metaphor does NOT use "like" or "as" like a simile does. It just says one thing IS another.
4. **Explain** your metaphor to the reader through additional details.

Ex. My best friend Kassy is my rock.

She is strong and is always there for me when I need her.

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Write Source Textbook
- Interactive Poetry Notebook



Reflection:

- How can a metaphor add sophistication to your essay?
- What kinds of comparisons are more effective when writing metaphors?



Essay Essentials



I can use figurative language to add voice to my writing.

Onomatopoeia Options

1. **Reread** your paper and find a place where you could tell the reader what something sounds like.
2. **Remember**, onomatopoeia is words whose sounds imitate their meaning.
3. **Explain** your onomatopoeia to the reader through additional details.

Ex. "Wham!" The door slammed shut in my face.

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Write Source Textbook
- Interactive Poetry Notebook



Reflection:

- How can onomatopoeia add sound to your essay?
- How will sound engage your reader?



Essay Essentials



I can use figurative language to add voice to my writing.

Alliteration Additions

1. **Reread** your paper and find a place where you could add some alliteration.
2. **Remember**, alliteration repeats the same starting sound in a sentence.
3. **Caution**: Don't get carried away. A little bit of alliteration goes a long way.

Ex. Can you imagine a ten ton tiger tearing through the jungle toward its prey? Well... that terrifying feeling is what makes the Toledo Zoo so terrific.

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Write Source Textbook
- Interactive Poetry Notebook



Reflection:

- How can alliteration add interest to your essay?
- How this this form of figurative language cause your writing to me memorable?



Essay Essentials



I can revise a sentence by pitchforking an action, sensory detail, and thought.

Bring on the Ba-Da-Bing

1. **Reread** your paper and find a place where you could show instead of tell.
2. **Consider** where your feet were or what your body was doing.
3. **Identify** what you saw.
4. **Explain** what you thought.

Ex. The first time I saw Gordita shaking uncontrollably inside her little crate, I thought to myself, "There's no way I'm letting her spend one more night here!"

Scholarly Multiple Sources

- Write Source Textbook
- Packet Pitchfork Collection



Reflection:

- How can onomatopoeia add sound to your essay?
- How will sound engage your reader?

