

Building Strong Sentences

Sentence Competition

This activity can be easily modified and changed to fit any grade, class, or syntax element being taught or reinforced. It can be made as simple or complex as needed and can include any element you have been working on for sentence development. It can be used easily as a Kagan structure, as bell work, a competition, or exit ticket.

Directions:

1. Have students divide into small groups of 3-4.
2. Pass out the "Sentence Roll" sheet to each student.
3. Before students begin, identify the type of sentence you want them to write, a topic idea, and an element they must include, such as a specific phrase or clause, or part of speech.
4. Put a timer on the board for groups to develop a sentence.
5. When the timer is complete, a "runner" must go to the board and write it correctly.
6. Each group "votes" for best overall best sentence.
7. Use this as an opportunity to also discuss revision elements and common sentence errors.

Elementary Example

Sentence Type:	<i>complex</i>
Topic:	<i>pizza</i>
Element to add in:	<i>Subordinate clause</i>
Sentence: <i>Because I love pineapple, I always order a Hawaiian pizza.</i>	

Secondary Example

Sentence Type:	<i>compound-complex</i>
Topic:	<i>Development of In Cold Blood</i>
Element to add in:	<i>Must be in active voice</i>
Sentence: <i>Even though readers know the outcome of the story before it begins, Truman Capote developed his novel into four sections so that the nonfiction story would be engaging, and the plot would evolve much like a work of fiction.</i>	

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Topic:	
Element to add in:	
Sentence:	

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