

Grab Your Reader: Great Leads

Summary

This is a mini-lesson to introduce leads to your students. This will give them an overview of what a lead sentence is and practice in writing great leads.

Time Frame

1 class periods of 60 minutes each

Group Size

Large Groups

Materials

Chart, overhead or whiteboard
Short book for lead sentence example
Paper or notebooks for students

Background for Teachers

Teachers may review the [6 + 1 Traits](#) Web site.

Student Prior Knowledge

Basic knowledge of writing.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Student will understand:

how a lead sentence is written.
different kinds of lead sentences.
why lead sentences are essential to good writing.

Instructional Procedures

Teacher: Read the book of your choice. After reading, go back to the lead sentence and reread it. Discuss the sentence and have a whole-class discussion on why this was a good example of a lead sentence. How did it grab the attention of the reader?

Teacher: On the board (or a previously written chart or overhead) introduce the 5 kinds of leads.
BIG FOUR

ACTION - "A loud crash in the night woke me out of a sound sleep, and I began to quiver! Shaking, my mind churning I wobbly pulled myself from bed and turned the handle on the bedroom door.

Dialogue - "Where's Dad! Spot's been hit by a car!" His face was white as a sheet!

Setting - Above the lights of the city, I could see for miles; calming lights, as far as you could see. I'll never forget the sight of that beautiful far-away city.

Reflection - I still remember the feeling; floating across the strong, smooth surface, the icy wind biting at my face.

"Which of these would the lead sentence in our story be considered?"

Teacher: Have the students create a rubric for lead sentences.

Have the students practice writing one or two lead sentences of each kind in partnerships.

Strategies for Diverse Learners

Diverse learners should be paired with a middle-level writer. Advanced writers sometimes have trouble relating to struggling writers.

Extensions

For more practice students could be sent the [Lead: Putting Your Best Facts Forward](#) Web site.

Assessment Plan

Assessments will be based on student-created rubric.

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