

Writing: Lesson 26

Middle Paragraphs - Overview

Today the students will be learning how to write more advanced middle paragraphs using a variety of elaborative techniques.

1. Up until now, we have been working on basic middle paragraphs (Section 1). We learned that all 3 middle paragraphs should have a T sentence, 3A sentences, and 3B sentences. We are still going to keep this structure.
2. Now we are going to work on having 4-5 sentences about A and 4-5 sentences about B.
3. Instead of just taking information from the text and making our own 4-5A and 4-5B sentences, we are now going to write quotes, paraphrases, and some of our own thoughts and ideas. These are called elaborative techniques. In middle school, you have to use these throughout your essay to get a passing score. *Teachers, see the evidence and elaboration column of the rubric.
4. Today’s lesson is just going to be an overview. I want you to see what a full middle paragraph looks like using quotes, paraphrases, and own ideas. Then over the next few days, I will teach you how to do each of these.
5. Let’s take a look at a basic example essay about the Founding Documents using the articles The Declaration of Independence, The Bill of Rights, and The United States Constitution.
6. If you look at the middle paragraphs, we have a Topic sentence (red), 4-5 sentences about A (blue), and 4-5 sentences about B (green).
7. Just like in Section 1 of the curriculum, our middle paragraphs should have a Topic sentence, then 4-5 sentences about your A (from planning), and 4-5 sentences about B (from planning).
8. Now let’s look at the essay titled “Advanced Essay.”
9. Without reading any of the words, just look at the colors. The sentences highlighted in blue are quotes, in green are paraphrases, and in pink are our own thoughts and ideas. This is only done in our middle paragraphs. We still have 4-5 about A and 4-5 about B, but we wrote them as quotes, paraphrases, or our own ideas.
Blue – QUOTES
Green – PARAPHRASES
Pink – OWN THOUGHTS and IDEAS
10. Let’s study this for a few minutes. Point out the following things to students:
 - There is a balance between quotes, paraphrases, and own ideas. You don’t want to see too many quotes or too much paraphrasing (too much of one color)...there needs to be a balance!
 - Every time there is a quote or paraphrase, there is EBT (Evidence-Based Terminology).
 - When writing our own thoughts and ideas, we do not use EBT.
 - Quotes have quotations around the part of the text that was quoted.
 - Own thoughts and ideas come after quotes or after paraphrases. They are not random thoughts or ideas. They are thoughts and ideas ABOUT the quote or paraphrase that is in front of it.
 - Look at the first blue quote about the Preamble. Read that quote. Now right after that is my own thought/idea about that quote. It is not from the text, it is just MY own thought/idea about what the quote stated.

- Look in the 2nd middle paragraph at the blue quote. Right after the quote is a paraphrase. Read the quote and the paraphrase. After both, I just gave a thought about what they said.
 - This is the same with paraphrasing. Look at middle paragraph 1 at the first green sentence. I paraphrased some information from the text about how the Declaration of Independence was created. After I paraphrased, I have my own thought/idea about what the paraphrase just stated (pink).
 - You don't always have to put a thought/idea after quotes and paraphrases...but you should try to most of the time if it makes sense and flows with the essay.
 - In middle paragraph 1, you can see that after my 3rd green sentence, I did not put a thought/idea. I went right into a quote.
 - You will also notice some sentences don't have a color. Those sentences are not quotes, paraphrases, or own thoughts/ideas. Those are just sentences that introduce the topic. Also for the 1st sentence about "A" you just want to introduce what your "A" is. This is the same with the 1st sentence about "B."
 - The rule to follow is one to two quotes per middle paragraph. The rest is a balance of paraphrases and own thoughts and ideas. Try to paraphrase two times in each middle paragraph.
11. Over the next few days, we will be talking about quotes, paraphrases, and own ideas. Then we will start practicing writing our middle paragraphs using these elaborative techniques.
12. Review:
- Teachers, please emphasize to students that in order to score a 4, the highest score for evidence and elaboration, their essay must have "smoothly integrated, thorough, and relevant evidence, **including precise references to sources.**"
 - A and B sentences should be quotes, paraphrases, and own thoughts and ideas.
 - There should be a balance of quotes, paraphrases, and own thoughts and ideas.
 - Only 1-2 quotes per middle paragraph (avoid "overquoting").
 - Own thoughts/ideas should come after quotes and paraphrases.
 - You must use EBT when writing a quote or paraphrase.
13. Hand out "Homework Assignment."

Basic Essay

The Founding Documents are the documents that helped shape the United States. Think about what you have learned about the most important documents in American history. Use information from the passages to inform the reader about the Founding Documents.

The Founding Documents are the most important sources in American history because they were the foundation of our nation. The three founding documents are the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the United States Constitution. Every American should know about these important documents.

To begin with, the Declaration of Independence is the first founding document created. The creation of the Declaration of Independence was complicated. It took a committee of five men one month to write the Declaration of Independence and then the Continental Congress edited it. It seems as though a lot of time and thought went into drafting the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. This is why we celebrate the 4th of July every year in the United States. Additionally, the Declaration of Independence has three unique sections. The first section, called the Preamble, contains one very famous sentence that is quoted in many great American speeches. It talks about the basic rights we deserve as Americans. This makes me feel grateful to live in this country because these basic rights are not a guarantee in all places around the world.

Second, another founding document is the Bill of Rights, which includes the first ten amendments of the Constitution. The first five amendments are very significant. The first five amendments are extremely important and protect individual rights that all Americans deserve to have. The first five amendments include the right to free speech and the right to bear arms. I think the first five amendments are what make our country unique and special. The last five amendments refer to legal rights. For example, the Sixth Amendment protects the rights of people accused of a crime and the Seventh Amendment explains the right to have a jury trial. The Eighth Amendment protects people accused of a crime, and the Ninth and Tenth Amendments explain things not mentioned in the Constitution. The last five amendments are just as important as the first five amendments.

Third, the most well-known founding document is the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution was created during the Constitutional Convention. In May, delegates from 12 of the 13 states convened in Philadelphia to begin the work of redesigning the government and drafting a new Constitution for the United States. As you can see, writing the most important document in U.S. history was a carefully planned process. The president of the Constitutional Convention was George Washington and the goal was to create a new form of government which took months. The Constitution is organized into different parts. The U.S. Constitution consists of a preamble, or introduction, seven articles and a signed closing endorsement. I like that the Constitution is organized because it makes it easier to understand the way our government is structured. It is amazing how our founding fathers created this document that still works for our government today.

As you can see, the three United States founding documents are the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution. These founding documents form the foundation of our nation. Our country would not be a unique democracy without these three important documents.

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Document Camera

Advanced Essay

The Founding Documents are the documents that helped shape the United States. Think about what you have learned about the most important documents in American history. Use information from the passages to inform the reader about the Founding Documents.

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To begin with, the Declaration of Independence is the first founding document created. The creation of the Declaration of Independence was complicated. I learned from the passage the Declaration of Independence that it took a committee of five men one month to write the Declaration of Independence and then the Continental Congress edited it. It seems as though a lot of time and thought went into drafting the Declaration of Independence. I also learned from the same passage that the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. This is why we celebrate the 4th of July every year in the United States. Additionally, the Declaration of Independence has three unique sections. The text the Declaration of Independence explains that the first section, called the Preamble, contains one very famous sentence that is quoted in many great American speeches. It says, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,” according to the article The Declaration of Independence. This makes me feel grateful to live in this country because these basic rights are not a guarantee in all places around the world.

Second, another founding document is the Bill of Rights, which includes the first ten amendments of the Constitution. The first five amendments are very significant. The article The Bill of Rights states that “The first five amendments are extremely important and protect individual rights that all Americans deserve to have.” The first five amendments include the right to free speech and the right to bear arms, explains the text The Bill of Rights. I think the first five amendments are what make our country unique and special. The last five amendments refer to legal rights. For example, the Sixth Amendment protects the rights of people accused of a crime and the Seventh Amendment explains the right to have a jury trial says the passage The Bill of Rights. The same passage goes on to describe the Eighth Amendment, which protects people accused of a crime, and the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, which explain things not mentioned in the Constitution. The last five amendments are just as important as the first five amendments.

Third, the most well-known founding document is the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution was created during the Constitutional Convention. According to the article The United States Constitution, “In May of that year, delegates from 12 of the 13 states convened in Philadelphia to begin the work of redesigning the government and drafting a new

Constitution for the United States.” As you can see, writing the most important document in U.S. history was a carefully planned process. Based on what I read in the article The United States Constitution, the president of the Constitutional Convention was George Washington and the goal was to create a new form of government which took months. The Constitution is organized into different parts. I learned in the passage The United States Constitution that “The U.S. Constitution consists of a preamble, or introduction, seven articles and a signed closing endorsement.” I like that the Constitution is organized because it makes it easier to understand the way our government is structured. It is amazing how our founding fathers created this document that still works for our government today.

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Homework

Directions: Look over the three middle paragraphs. Highlight or underline the quotes in one color, the paraphrases in another color, and the own thoughts and ideas in a third color. Then draw a circle around the EBT in every paragraph.

Advanced Essay

The Founding Documents are the documents that helped shape the United States. Think about what you have learned about the most important documents in American history. Use information from the passages to inform the reader about the Founding Documents.

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