PARAGRAPHS DEVELOPMENT AND WORK SHEET MERCER UNIVERSITY Document

Paragraphs Development and Worksheet Mercer University: A Comprehensive Guide

Paragraphs development and worksheet Mercer University are essential components of effective writing education, especially within academic settings. Mercer University, renowned for its commitment to fostering strong communication skills among students, offers resources and structured activities to enhance paragraph development. This article explores the importance of paragraph development, the role of worksheets in learning, and how Mercer University integrates these elements into its curriculum to support student success.

The Significance of Paragraph Development in Academic Writing

Understanding Paragraphs as Building Blocks of Writing

Paragraphs serve as the fundamental units of any well-structured piece of writing. They organize ideas, provide clarity, and guide readers through an author's thoughts seamlessly. A well-developed paragraph contains a clear main idea, supporting details, and a logical flow, making it easier for readers to comprehend and retain information.

Key Elements of Paragraph Development

To develop effective paragraphs, students should focus on the following components:

- Topic Sentence: States the main idea of the paragraph.
- Supporting Details: Provide evidence, examples, or explanations that reinforce the topic sentence.
- Coherence and Unity: Ensure all sentences relate to the main idea and transition smoothly.
- Concluding Sentence: Summarizes or transitions to the next paragraph.

Common Challenges in Paragraph Development

Many students struggle with:

- Maintaining focus within a paragraph.
- Developing ideas sufficiently.
- Avoiding off-topic sentences.
- Ensuring logical progression of ideas.

Addressing these issues requires practice, feedback, and structured exercises?where worksheets play a pivotal role.

Role of Worksheets in Teaching Paragraph Development

How Worksheets Enhance Learning

Worksheets serve as practical tools for reinforcing paragraph development skills. They provide structured exercises that help students:

- Identify the main idea and supporting details.
- Practice writing clear topic sentences.
- Improve coherence through transitional phrases.
- Edit and revise paragraphs for clarity and flow.

Types of Paragraph Development Worksheets

Mercer University utilizes various worksheet formats to target different aspects of paragraph writing:

- Topic Sentence Identification: Students read paragraphs and underline or highlight the main idea.
- Supporting Details Practice: Fill-in-the-blank exercises to add supporting information.
- Paragraph Organization: Rearranging jumbled sentences to form coherent paragraphs.
- Writing Prompts: Guided prompts encouraging students to compose their own paragraphs.
- Peer Review and Editing: Worksheets that facilitate self-assessment and peer feedback.

Benefits of Using Worksheets at Mercer University

- Reinforce classroom instruction through practice.
- Provide immediate feedback on student understanding.
- Allow for differentiation based on skill levels.
- Track progress over time with formative assessments.

Mercer University?s Approach to Teaching Paragraph Development

Curriculum Integration

Mercer University emphasizes integrating paragraph development into its writing courses across disciplines. The curriculum includes:

- Dedicated workshops focused on paragraph structure.
- Assignments that progressively increase in complexity.
- Use of specialized worksheets tailored to different learning stages.

Instructional Strategies

Instructors employ various strategies to enhance paragraph writing skills:

- Modeling effective paragraph structures in class.
- Using peer review sessions with worksheet-based exercises.
- Incorporating digital tools and interactive worksheets.
- Providing personalized feedback to address individual needs.

Resources and Support for Students

Mercer University offers resources such as:

- Online worksheet repositories accessible through the university portal.
- Writing centers equipped with printed and digital worksheets.
- Workshops and seminars focused on paragraph development.
- Faculty-led tutorials emphasizing worksheet-based exercises.

Benefits of Mastering Paragraph Development for Mercer University Students

Academic Success

Strong paragraph skills translate into clearer essays, reports, and research papers, leading to higher grades and academic achievement.

Professional Communication

Effective writing skills are vital for future careers. Mercer students trained in paragraph development can communicate ideas confidently in professional settings.

Critical Thinking and Creativity

Developing well-structured paragraphs encourages students to think critically about their ideas and express them creatively.

Preparation for Advanced Writing Tasks

Mastery of paragraph development prepares students for complex writing tasks, including thesis statements, literature reviews, and persuasive essays.

Practical Tips for Students Using Mercer University Worksheets

- Consistent Practice: Regularly complete worksheet exercises to reinforce skills.
- Seek Feedback: Utilize instructor and peer reviews to identify areas for improvement.
- Apply Skills Broadly: Use paragraph development techniques across all writing assignments.
- Utilize Resources: Take advantage of online and on-campus worksheet repositories.
- Reflect and Revise: Review completed worksheets to understand mistakes and implement revisions.

Conclusion

Effective paragraph development is a cornerstone of strong academic and professional writing. Mercer University recognizes this importance and integrates dedicated worksheets and instructional strategies into its curriculum to support student growth. By engaging with structured exercises?such as identifying main ideas, supporting details, and practicing paragraph organization?students can sharpen their writing skills, leading to greater academic success and confident communication. Whether through classroom activities, online resources, or peer reviews, Mercer University provides a comprehensive environment for mastering paragraph development, ensuring students are well-equipped for their academic journeys and beyond.

Explore Mercer University?s Resources for Paragraph Development

- Access online worksheet repositories through the university portal.
- Participate in writing workshops focused on paragraph skills.
- Utilize the campus writing center for personalized assistance.
- Engage in peer review sessions using structured worksheet templates.

Investing time in developing strong paragraphs with the help of Mercer University?s resources will empower students to excel in all their writing endeavors.

Paragraphs Development and Worksheet Mercer University: A Comprehensive Guide to Effective Writing

Developing well-structured paragraphs is a fundamental skill that underpins successful writing across all disciplines. At Mercer University, students are encouraged to hone their paragraph development skills through targeted worksheets designed to reinforce key concepts, improve clarity, and foster critical thinking. In this guide, we?ll explore the essentials of paragraph development, examine how worksheets can serve as effective tools for practice, and provide practical strategies to elevate your writing at Mercer University.

Understanding Paragraph Development

What Is a Paragraph?

A paragraph is a cohesive unit of writing that revolves around a central idea or theme. It typically consists of a topic sentence, supporting sentences, and a concluding sentence. The goal is to communicate a clear, focused message to the reader, guiding them seamlessly from one idea to the next.

The Significance of Paragraph Development

Strong paragraph development ensures your writing is logical, persuasive, and engaging. It helps the reader follow your argument, understand your points, and appreciate the clarity of your thought process. At Mercer University, effective paragraph development is emphasized across writing courses, research papers, and professional communication.

Key Elements of Effective Paragraphs

- Topic Sentence

- Purpose: Introduces the main idea of the paragraph.
- Characteristics: Clear, concise, and specific.
- Example: "Mercer University offers a variety of resources to support student success."

- Supporting Sentences

- Purpose: Develop and elaborate on the topic sentence.
- Methods: Use facts, examples, statistics, or explanations.
- Example: Discuss specific programs, tutoring centers, or faculty mentorship.

- Coherence and Unity

- Definition: Logical flow and consistency within the paragraph.
- Techniques: Use transition words, maintain focus, and avoid unrelated ideas.

- Concluding Sentence

- Purpose: Summarizes the main point or provides a transition.
- Example: "Thus, Mercer?s comprehensive support system significantly enhances student achievement."

Strategies for Paragraph Development

Using the PEEL Method

PEEL is an effective structure for developing paragraphs:

- Point: State your main idea.
- Explanation: Clarify or elaborate on the point.
- Evidence: Provide supporting details or examples.
- Link: Connect to the next idea or paragraph.

Incorporating Transitions

Transitions improve flow and coherence. Common examples include:

- Addition: Moreover, furthermore, in addition
- Contrast: However, on the other hand, yet
- Comparison: Similarly, likewise
- Cause and Effect: Therefore, as a result, consequently

Balancing Detail and Brevity

Provide enough detail to support your main idea without overwhelming the reader. Be concise and focused.

Mercer University-Specific Resources and Expectations

Writing Support Services

Mercer offers various resources to assist students in paragraph development:

- Writing Centers: Personalized feedback and workshops.
- Online Worksheets: Practice exercises tailored to academic writing.
- Instructors and Peer Review: Opportunities for constructive critique.

Common Assignments Emphasizing Paragraph Skills

- Research papers
- Reflective essays
- Discussion posts
- Professional reports

Using Paragraph Worksheets at Mercer University

Purpose of Paragraph Worksheets

Worksheets serve as practical tools for:

- Reinforcing paragraph structure
- Practicing topic sentence formulation
- Enhancing coherence and transitions
- Developing editing and proofreading skills

Types of Worksheets

- Fill-in-the-blank exercises: Complete sentences with appropriate supporting details.
- Jumbled paragraph exercises: Rearrange sentences to create a coherent paragraph.

- Topic sentence creation: Practice writing clear and focused opening sentences.
- Transition practice: Identify and insert suitable transition words.

How to Maximize Worksheet Effectiveness

- Active Engagement: Complete exercises thoughtfully, not passively.
- Reflection: Review and revise your responses.
- Application: Integrate learned techniques into your actual writing projects.
- Seek Feedback: Use instructor or peer feedback to refine your skills.

Practical Steps to Improve Paragraph Development

Step 1: Plan Before Writing

- Identify the main idea.
- Gather supporting details.
- Decide on order and structure.

Step 2: Write a Clear Topic Sentence

- Summarize the paragraph?s main point.
- Make it specific and engaging.

Step 3: Develop Supporting Sentences

- Use evidence, examples, and explanations.
- Maintain coherence through transition words.

Step 4: Review and Revise

- Check for clarity, coherence, and unity.
- Ensure each sentence supports the main idea.
- Correct grammatical errors and awkward phrasing.

Final Tips for Success at Mercer University

- Practice Regularly: Use worksheets and exercises frequently.
- Seek Feedback: Utilize campus resources for constructive criticism.
- Read Widely: Exposure to good writing enhances your own skills.
- Write with Purpose: Always consider your audience and goal.
- Revise Ruthlessly: Good writing is rewriting.

Conclusion

Mastering paragraph development is essential for academic excellence and professional communication at Mercer University. By understanding the core elements of effective paragraphs, employing strategic techniques like the PEEL method, and utilizing targeted worksheets, students can significantly enhance their writing skills. Remember, consistent practice and active engagement with available resources are your best tools for becoming a confident, clear, and compelling writer. Whether drafting essays, reports, or presentations, strong paragraph development forms the backbone of impactful writing?making your ideas not only heard but understood.

QuestionAnswer What are the key strategies for developing effective paragraphs in academic writing at Mercer University? Key strategies include focusing on a clear main idea, using supporting details and evidence, ensuring logical coherence, and employing proper transitions to enhance paragraph flow in Mercer University coursework. How can students at Mercer University utilize worksheets to improve their paragraph development skills? Students can use worksheets to practice identifying topic sentences, adding supporting details, and improving paragraph coherence, which reinforces their understanding of effective paragraph structure. Are there specific worksheet resources available at Mercer University for paragraph writing practice? Yes, Mercer University offers various worksheet resources and writing guides designed to help students develop strong paragraphs, often integrated into their writing centers or online academic support platforms. How does practicing paragraph development with worksheets benefit Mercer University students? overall writing skills? Practicing with worksheets enhances students' ability to organize ideas clearly, improves grammatical accuracy, and builds confidence in constructing well-structured paragraphs across different assignments. What common mistakes should Mercer University students avoid when developing paragraphs using worksheets? Students should avoid overly vague topic sentences, lack of supporting details, paragraph incoherence, and neglecting proper transitions, all of which can be identified and corrected through worksheet exercises. How can instructors at Mercer University incorporate paragraph development worksheets into their curriculum? Instructors can assign worksheets as practice exercises, use them for peer review sessions, or integrate them into writing workshops to reinforce paragraph structure and development concepts. What are the benefits of using worksheets for paragraph development in Mercer University?s academic writing courses? Worksheets provide structured practice, immediate feedback opportunities, and help students internalize paragraph construction principles, leading to improved writing clarity and coherence.

Related keywords: paragraph development, worksheet, Mercer University, writing skills, academic writing, essay structure, paragraph organization, educational worksheet, university writing resources, student assignments

SHORT DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPHS FOR KIDS

Understanding Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Short descriptive paragraphs for kids are a vital tool in children's literature, educational materials, and storytelling. These concise, engaging paragraphs serve to capture a child's attention, convey essential information swiftly, and foster a love for reading. They are characterized by their brevity, clarity, and vivid imagery, making complex ideas accessible and enjoyable for young readers. Whether used in classroom settings or in children?s books, short descriptive paragraphs help to develop vocabulary, enhance comprehension, and stimulate imagination. In this article, we will explore the importance of short descriptive paragraphs for kids, their key features, and practical tips for writing effective ones.

The Importance of Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Short descriptive paragraphs play a crucial role in early literacy development. They serve as building blocks for more complex reading and writing skills, offering several benefits:

1. Enhancing Comprehension and Focus

Children often have limited attention spans. Short paragraphs with clear descriptions help maintain their focus and improve understanding by avoiding overwhelming information.

2. Building Vocabulary

Through vivid descriptions, children are introduced to new words and phrases, enriching their vocabulary in context.

3. Stimulating Imagination and Creativity

Descriptive language paints pictures in young minds, encouraging children to visualize scenes, characters, and objects, which sparks their creativity.

4. Supporting Reading Confidence

Short, manageable paragraphs make reading less intimidating, fostering confidence and encouraging children to read more independently.

Key Features of Effective Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Creating compelling short descriptive paragraphs requires understanding their essential features. These elements ensure that the content is engaging, accessible, and educational.

1. Conciseness and Clarity

The paragraph should be brief, focusing on a single idea or scene. Use simple language and avoid unnecessary details to keep young readers engaged.

2. Vivid and Specific Descriptions

Use sensory details?sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste?to bring descriptions to life. Specificity helps children visualize and understand better.

3. Age-Appropriate Language

Choose vocabulary suitable for the target age group. Use familiar words, but introduce new ones in context to promote learning.

4. Engaging and Relatable Content

Select topics that resonate with children?s interests and experiences, such as animals, nature, family, or everyday activities.

5. Use of Descriptive Techniques

Incorporate literary devices like similes, metaphors, and personification to make descriptions more vivid and memorable.

Examples of Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Here are some sample short descriptive paragraphs designed to showcase effective techniques:

- **The Bright Sun:** The sun shone brightly in the blue sky, warming everything below. Its golden rays danced on the leaves, making them sparkle like tiny stars. Children laughed and played in the sunshine, feeling happy and warm.

- **The Fluffy Bunny:** The bunny had soft, white fur that felt like a cloud. Its pink nose twitched as it sniffed the air, and long ears listened carefully. When it hopped, its tiny feet made a gentle thump on the grass.
- **The Quiet Forest:** The forest was silent except for the rustling leaves and chirping birds. Tall trees stretched high into the sky, their green leaves whispering in the breeze. A gentle stream flowed nearby, its water sparkling in the sunlight.

Tips for Writing Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Creating effective descriptive paragraphs for children involves specific strategies. Here are practical tips for writers and educators:

1. Focus on One Main Idea

Keep the paragraph centered around a single subject or scene. This helps maintain clarity and prevents confusion.

2. Use Sensory Details

Include descriptions that appeal to the senses, making scenes vivid and tangible. For example, describe how things look, sound, smell, or feel.

3. Keep Language Simple and Engaging

Avoid complex words or sentences. Use lively, expressive language that invites children into the story or description.

4. Incorporate Repetition and Rhythm

Repetition of key words or phrases can create a rhythmic flow, making the paragraph more memorable and fun to read aloud.

5. Use Visual Aids and Illustrations

Pairing descriptive paragraphs with pictures helps reinforce understanding and makes reading more interactive.

6. Practice and Revise

Encourage children to practice writing their own descriptive paragraphs. Revising helps improve clarity, vocabulary, and creativity.

Activities to Develop Skills in Writing Short Descriptive Paragraphs

Engaging children in activities can enhance their ability to write short, descriptive paragraphs effectively:

- **Picture Description:** Show children a picture and ask them to write a paragraph describing what they see, encouraging vivid details.
- **Sensory Writing Exercise:** Have children close their eyes and imagine a scene, then describe it focusing on sensory details.
- **Story Starters:** Provide beginning sentences or scenarios to inspire children to write short descriptive paragraphs.
- **Descriptive Word Bank:** Create a list of adjectives and sensory words for children to incorporate into their writing.

Incorporating Short Descriptive Paragraphs into Educational Settings

Teachers and caregivers can utilize short descriptive paragraphs as effective teaching tools:

1. Reading Comprehension

Use descriptive paragraphs to improve understanding of descriptive language, imagery, and inference skills.

2. Vocabulary Building

Highlight new words within the context of descriptive writing, encouraging children to learn and use them.

3. Creative Writing Exercises

Prompt children to craft their own descriptive paragraphs, fostering creativity and expressive skills.

4. Interactive Storytelling

Integrate descriptive paragraphs into storytelling activities to make stories more vivid and engaging.

The Role of Technology in Teaching Short Descriptive Paragraphs

Digital tools and resources can enhance teaching and learning of descriptive writing:

- **Interactive Apps:** Use apps that allow children to create digital stories with descriptive text and images.
- **Online Galleries:** Explore online picture banks to inspire descriptive writing.
- **Video and Audio Resources:** Use videos or recordings of nature sounds and scenes to stimulate descriptive language.

Conclusion

Short descriptive paragraphs for kids are essential in nurturing young readers' love for language, improving their comprehension, and developing their expressive skills. By focusing on clarity, vivid imagery, and age-appropriate language, writers and educators can craft engaging content that captivates children?s imaginations. Incorporating activities, technological tools, and thoughtful teaching strategies can further enhance children?s ability to write and appreciate descriptive language. Ultimately, fostering an early appreciation for descriptive writing helps children become confident, creative communicators and lifelong learners in the world of words.

Short descriptive paragraphs for kids are an essential tool in early education and storytelling. They serve as a foundation for young learners to grasp new concepts, develop vocabulary, and foster a love for reading. These brief, vivid, and engaging snippets help capture children?s attention, making learning both fun and effective. As educators, parents, and writers seek to craft content suitable for children, understanding how to create compelling short descriptive paragraphs is vital. This article explores the importance, characteristics, tips, and examples of short descriptive paragraphs tailored for kids, aiming to inspire engaging writing that nurtures young minds.

Understanding Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

What Are Short Descriptive Paragraphs?

Short descriptive paragraphs are concise blocks of text that vividly portray a person, place, object, or idea. They typically consist of 2-4 sentences that focus on sensory details and key features to paint a clear picture in the reader?s mind. For children, these paragraphs are often colorful, simple, and easy to understand, designed to stimulate imagination and curiosity.

The Purpose of Short Descriptive Paragraphs

- To introduce children to new concepts or objects through vivid imagery.
- To develop descriptive writing skills in young learners.
- To enhance vocabulary by emphasizing specific words and phrases.
- To make reading engaging by combining visual and textual cues.
- To build confidence in children?s ability to express ideas concisely.

Characteristics of Effective Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Creating impactful short descriptive paragraphs involves understanding their key features:

Clarity and Simplicity

Language should be straightforward, avoiding complex vocabulary that might confuse young readers. Clear descriptions help children easily visualize what is being depicted.

Engagement and Imagery

Using sensory details?sight, sound, touch, taste, smell?brings descriptions to life. Engaging words spark children?s imagination.

Conciseness

Since these paragraphs are short, every sentence should serve a purpose, avoiding unnecessary details that could dilute the main image.

Use of Visuals and Context

Pairing paragraphs with pictures or relatable contexts can enhance understanding and retention.

Tips for Writing Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Writing effective descriptive paragraphs for children can be a fun process if you keep in mind the following tips:

Know Your Audience

Tailor language and content to the age group. For younger children, use simple words and familiar objects. For slightly older kids, introduce new vocabulary with context.

Focus on Vivid Details

Highlight specific features that stand out. Instead of "the flower," say "the bright, red flower with soft petals."

Incorporate Sensory Language

Encourage children to imagine how things look, sound, smell, or feel. For example, "The cookies

smell warm and sweet, like vanilla and chocolate."

Use Rhyme and Rhythm

Rhythmic sentences or rhymes make descriptions more musical and memorable for young learners.

Include Familiar Contexts

Use settings or objects children know to make descriptions relatable and easier to visualize.

Examples of Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Here are some examples illustrating how to craft engaging, short descriptive paragraphs suitable for children:

Example 1: Describing a Puppy

The tiny puppy has soft, fluffy fur that feels like a cloud. Its big, brown eyes sparkle with curiosity, and its wagging tail shows it's happy. When it barks, it sounds like a tiny, happy squeak.

Example 2: Describing a Playground

The playground is full of colorful swings and a tall slide that gleams in the sun. The air smells of fresh grass and candy from nearby stalls. Children laugh loudly as they run and play under the bright blue sky.

Example 3: Describing a Fruit

The juicy orange is round and bright, like a tiny sun. Its skin is rough and bumpy, but inside, the sweet, tangy taste makes your mouth water. It's full of tiny seeds that pop when you bite into it.

Pros and Cons of Using Short Descriptive Paragraphs for Kids

Like any educational tool, short descriptive paragraphs have advantages and limitations:

Pros:

- Enhance Visualization: Help children picture objects, places, and experiences vividly.
- Build Vocabulary: Introduce new words in context.
- Aid Memory: Short, colorful descriptions are easier to recall.

- Encourage Creativity: Inspire children to imagine and describe their own experiences.
- Support Language Development: Foster sentence structure and descriptive skills.

Cons:

- Risk of Oversimplification: May omit details that could deepen understanding if not balanced well.
- Potential for Lack of Depth: Short paragraphs might not cover complex ideas thoroughly.
- Requires Creative Balance: Need to avoid clichés or repetitive descriptions.
- Dependence on Visuals: Some children may need pictures to fully grasp descriptions.

Integrating Short Descriptive Paragraphs into Learning

To maximize their benefits, short descriptive paragraphs can be integrated into various educational activities:

- Storytelling Exercises: Encourage children to write or share short descriptions of their favorite objects or places.
- Vocabulary Building: Use paragraphs to introduce and reinforce new words.
- Reading Comprehension: Use vivid descriptions to develop understanding and inference skills.
- Art and Writing Projects: Combine drawing with descriptive writing to foster multimodal learning.

Conclusion: Crafting Engaging Descriptions for Young Minds

Short descriptive paragraphs are a powerful educational and literary device for kids. They serve as bridges between imagination and language, helping young learners understand their world more vividly. When crafted with clarity, sensory appeal, and simplicity, these brief texts can ignite curiosity, develop language skills, and foster a lifelong love of reading and storytelling. Whether used in classroom activities, storybooks, or everyday conversations, mastering the art of short description is a valuable skill for educators and parents alike. By focusing on engaging details and relatable contexts, we can create descriptions that not only inform but also delight young minds, opening doors to endless worlds of imagination.

QuestionAnswer What is a short descriptive paragraph for kids? A short descriptive paragraph for kids is a brief piece of writing that uses simple words to describe a person, place, or thing so that readers can easily imagine it. Why are descriptive paragraphs important for kids learning to write? Descriptive paragraphs help kids improve their writing skills by teaching them how to use vivid words and details to create clear pictures in the reader's mind. How can I help my child write a good descriptive paragraph? Encourage your child to observe carefully, use sensory words, and include

specific details about what they see, hear, feel, or smell to make their paragraph more interesting. What are some easy topics for kids to write descriptive paragraphs about? Some simple topics include their favorite animal, a special place they love, their best friend, or a fun activity they enjoy. How long should a short descriptive paragraph be for kids? Typically, a short descriptive paragraph for kids is about 3 to 5 sentences long, enough to give clear details without being too long. What are some tips to make descriptive writing more fun for kids? Use colorful words, encourage children to use their senses, and ask them to include interesting details or comparisons to make their writing lively. Can you give an example of a short descriptive paragraph for kids? Sure! 'The big, fluffy cat has soft, white fur and bright green eyes. It purrs loudly when it?s happy and loves to chase toy mice. Its tiny nose sniffles as it explores the room.' How can teachers make descriptive paragraph writing engaging for young students? Teachers can use fun activities like drawing pictures first, sharing examples, and encouraging students to use their senses to describe things vividly. Are descriptive paragraphs only for writing stories? No, descriptive paragraphs can be used in stories, reports, or any writing where you want to give detailed information and help the reader imagine what you're describing.

Related keywords: kids' descriptive writing, children?s paragraph examples, simple descriptive sentences, kids' writing prompts, storytelling for children, easy descriptive words, beginner writing tips, kids' creative writing, short story paragraphs, elementary writing activities

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