

Narrative sample-Revision

Note to teachers: This is an activity that I did in class. I organized the class into heterogeneous groups, with a mixture of abilities. Project onto the smart board the original version of each paragraph, then ask the students to work together in their group to revise the paragraph adding all the elements of a narrative that you have already addressed (descriptive writing, combining sentences, adding imagery and other details, etc.)

Give them a time limit and tell them that you will assign a grade for classwork. After they finish revising, ask a spokesperson from each group to read aloud their revised version. You may want to add incentives such as a "prize" to the best revision.

This was taken from the writing of an actual student. You can also use one of your unedited first drafts (with the permission of the author, of course) and type revise each paragraph thinking aloud, and modeling.

Introductory paragraph.

Original:

I was in the classroom. Peter was there. I was working. It was boring.

Revised:

It was like any other ordinary day. I could see all the other kids in my classroom, working diligently on a persuasive essay. Some kids held their pencil between their fingers, rolling it around while thinking about what next to write. Others were obviously doing something else, or chatting with their neighbor when they were supposed to be working. As for me, I didn't feel like doing the assignment. As I looked through the window at the sunny skies outside, I felt terribly bored. I looked across the table at Peter, who was scribbling furiously on his paper.

Middle paragraph

Original:

Next my dad got home, told my brother why he had hit me. Dad said you are grounded. My dad took away his phone and laptop.

Revised

When my dad got home and found out what had happened, he stomped furiously into my brother's bedroom.

"Why did you hit your sister?" he bellowed, "You are grounded!"

Before my brother could say anything, my dad took away his cell phone and his laptop, ignoring my brother's complaints.

Dialogue

Original:

The next day, I go and tell him "then if you didn't make a plan then why aren't Julio, Hunter, Isaac, Cole and Osvaldo talking to me?" Ok fine, he admitted I lied, I did make a plan. "How could you, you are my best friend "look I'll talk to you tomorrow. The next day I told him "now can we talk" and he was texting all the time I was talking to him!

Revised:

The next day, I went to him and asked him, "If you didn't have a plan, then why aren't Julio, Hunter, Isaac, Cole and Osvaldo talking to me?"

"Ok fine," he admitted, "I lied, I did have a plan."

"How could you? You are my best friend!"

"Look I'll talk to you tomorrow."

The next day I approached him once again and demanded, "Now can we talk?" Unfortunately, he didn't seem to want to talk to me. He was texting the whole time I was talking to him!

No "till", or "gonna" those are not words

until

going to