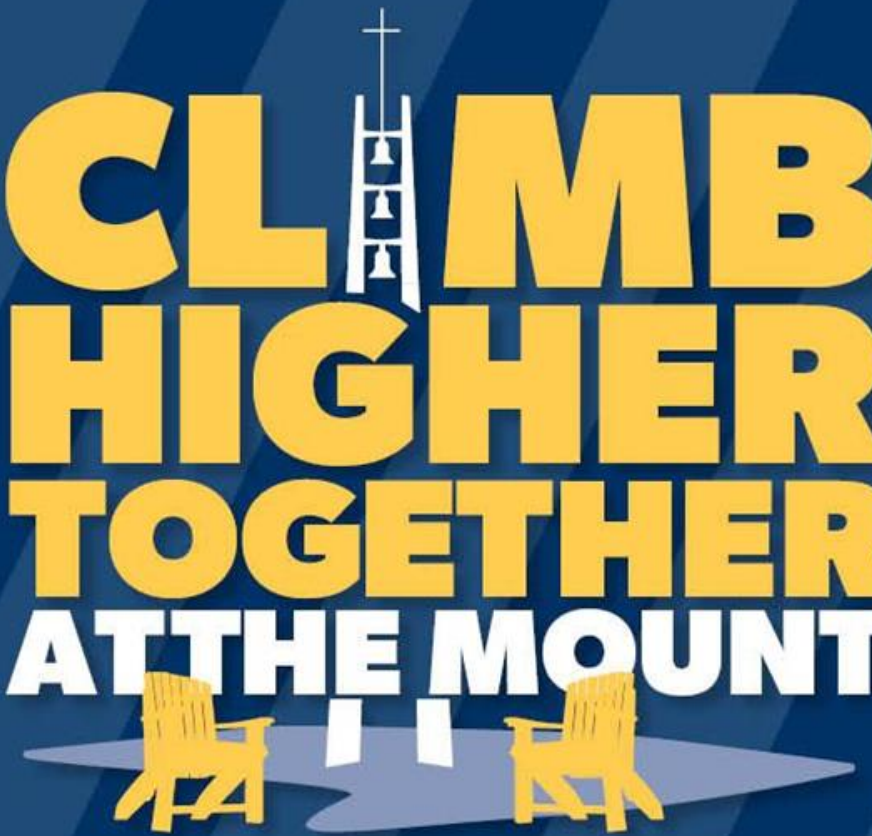


**CLIMB
HIGHER
TOGETHER
AT THE MOUNT**

A stylized graphic featuring a white church steeple with a cross on top, positioned behind the word 'CLIMB'. Below the text, there are two yellow Adirondack chairs facing each other, with a light blue oval shadow beneath them. The entire graphic is set against a background of diagonal blue stripes.



SENTENCE COMBINING

Unlock student potential





Monica Covington-Cradle
Monica.Covington-Cradle@msj.edu



Heather Fleming
Heather.Fleming@msj.edu



Tandra Isenberg
Tandra.Isenberg@msj.edu



Agenda

Sentence combining

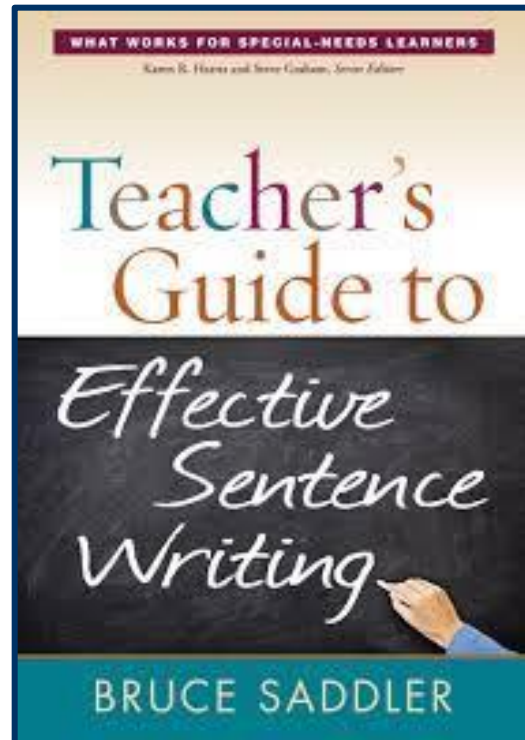
I. Research

II. Background

III. Activities



Background



One-Minute Writing Exercise





What did you notice when
writing with your
non-dominant hand?

The Strands That Are Woven Into Skilled Writing

(Sedita, 2019)

Critical Thinking

- Generating ideas, gathering information
- Writing process: organizing, drafting, writing, revising

Syntax

- Grammar and syntactic awareness
- Sentence elaboration
- Punctuation

Text Structure

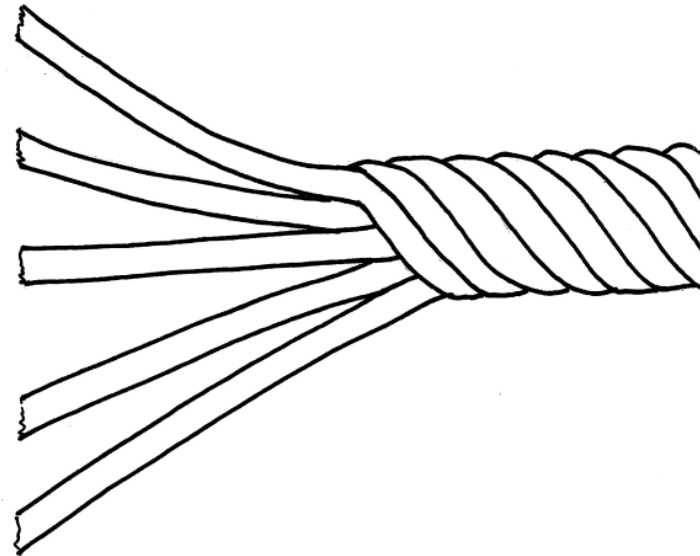
- Narrative, informational, opinion structures
- Paragraph structure
- Patterns of organization (description, sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution)
- Linking and transition words/phrases

Writing Craft

- Word choice
- Awareness of task, audience purpose
- Literary devices

Transcription

- Spelling
- Handwriting, keyboarding



Sedita, J. (2019). *The strands that are woven into skilled writing*. Rowley, MA: Keys to Literacy. Retrieved from: <https://keystoliteracy.com/free-resources/articles/>



What Does the Research Suggest?

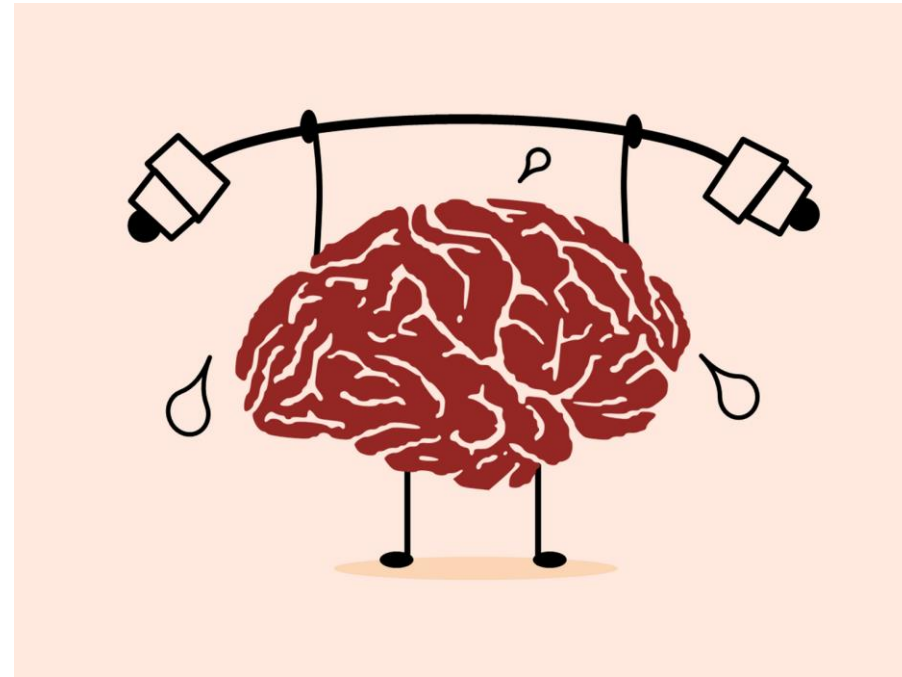
Syntax

Critical Thinking

Text Structure

Writing Craft

Transcription



Transcription ✖

Handwriting Fluency

Spelling Accuracy

“...account for the *majority* of variance in written composition”

(Dockrell et al., 2019, p. 75).

Alves and Limpo, 2015; Berninger et al., 1992; Graham et al., 1997; Dockrell et al., 2019



Research Support



What Does the Research Suggest?

Started back in the time of dinosaurs like these...



Syntax

Sentence-combining improves syntactic fluency



Gains in syntactic fluency lead to high-quality writing

Mellon, 1967; Strong, 1990

Critical Thinking

Difficulty with sentence writing



Planning
Content
Revising

Saddler, 2012



Critical Thinking

Sentence formation fluency
frees up higher level cognitive
capacity

Graham, 1982



Text Structure

- What a written sentence is
- Limits of simple sentences
- Syntactic options

Neuleib and Fortune, 1985



Writing Craft

- Amount of content produced
- Number of revisions to written work

Saddler et al., 2018



The red snake has a
pet the pet is
a bird. The bird
is blue. The red
snake likes to climb
tree. The bird likes
to fly. Up into
tree the snake is
three. Years old and
the bird is three too.

They were friends
and they were
best best friends
they were BFFs.






Sentences represent vehicles of communication
that are literally miniature compositions.

(Saddler, 2012, p.6)



What are the Benefits of Sentence Combining?

- Sentences are the foundation of all written products
- Helps writers “decenter” and make judgements about their sentences based on how they will be perceived by readers
- Increases correct punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
- fosters skills in revision
- improves reading fluency and comprehension

(Saddler, 2012, Table 3.2)



Prerequisites- What is a sentence?



Sentence Combining

Combining two or more simple, or kernel, sentences into complex sentences

The pet is a bird.

The bird is blue.

The pet is a blue bird.

The blue bird is a pet.



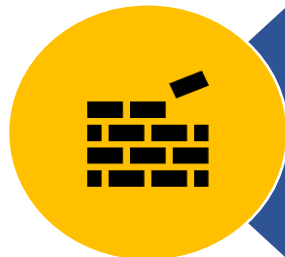
Amplify Instruction



Transfer to connected writing



Connect to content



Decompose and
Recompose



Research to Practice: Classroom Connection

with Sentence Combining

Ways to Increase Rigor

Number of Kernel Sentences

Increasing kernels increases complexity

Increase the Number of Paragraphs

Increasing the number of paragraphs represented increases complexity with whole-discourse exercises being the most complex

Required Number of Solutions

Defining the number of sentences can increase the difficulty

Cued vs. Open

- Underline Keywords
- (Connecting words)



Classroom Connection



Research to Practice

“No national recognized SC curricula available that work for each grade level, fortunately SC exercises are easy to create”

(Saddler, 2012, p. 27)



Research to Practice

Types of SC Exercises

Cued Exercises

Open Exercises



Cued Exercises

Characteristics

- Also known as “signaled” SC exercises
- Used to introduce SC to student combining
- Offer specific clues to prompt students to combine the kernels in a certain way
- Two clues: underlined clues and (**key words in parenthesis**)



Underlined Cued Exercises

The water was cold.

The water was refreshing.

The *refreshing* water was cold.

The water was *refreshing* and cold

The cold water was *refreshing*

The *refreshing* water was cold.



Parenthetical Cued Exercises

The girl fell over the log.
She lost her balance. (*because*)

Because she lost her balance the girl fell over.
The girl fell over the log because she lost her balance.
Because she fell over the log, the girl lost her balance.



Research to Practice

Open Exercises

Characteristics

- Higher level method of SC exercises
- Two kernel sentences are combined without clues or cued words
- Many combinations are possible
- Students must determine the important information that should be included



Open Exercises

The girl lifted the glass.

The glass was white.



The girl lifted the white glass.

The white glass was lifted by the girl.





Open Exercise Accuracy Check

1. The book ¹fell.

2. The book was ²large.

3. It fell ³from the shelf.

Solutions

The book ¹fell ³from the shelf.

The ²large book ¹fell ³from the shelf.



Whole -Discourse SC

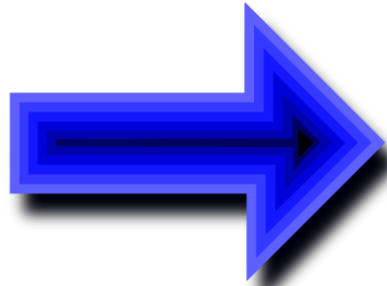
Characteristics

- More Complex method of SC exercises
- Paragraph level of sentence combination exercises
- Sequenced kernel sentences combined to form a paragraph or short story



Whole-Discourse SC

A boy kept a flock of sheep.
The boy was a shepherd.
He kept the sheep at a
distance from the village



*A shepherd boy kept a flock of
sheep at a distance from the
village.*

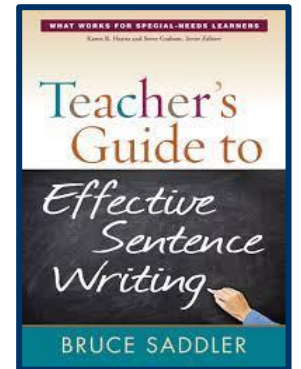


Lesson Structure

“I do, We do, You do”

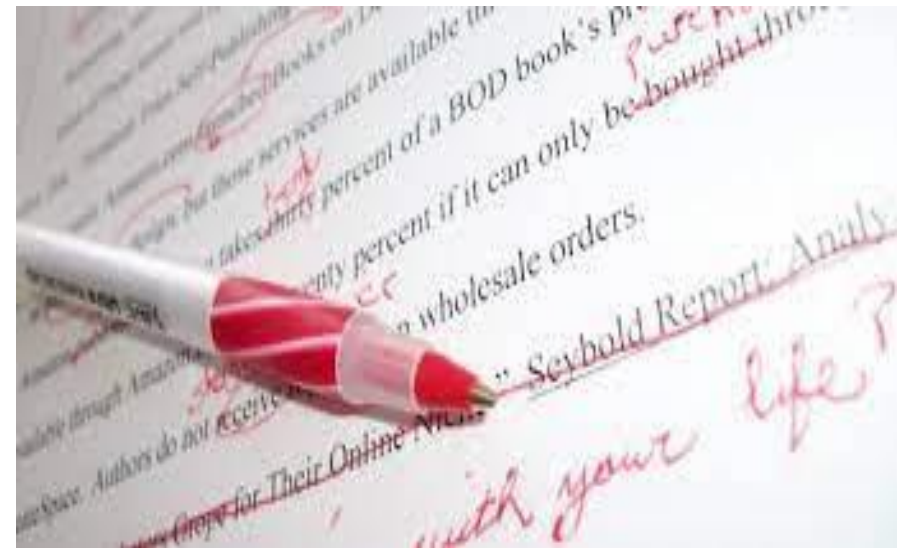
- Teacher Modeling
- Scaffolded Practice
- Independent Practice

(Saddler, 2012, table 7.1)



Error Correction

It's not about the red pen!



Operations for Combining Sentences

- **Combine** sentences together
- **Change** words or parts of sentences
- **Add** words or parts to the sentences
- **Rearrange** words or parts of sentences
- **Delete** words or parts of sentences

C-CARD

(Saddler, 2012)



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Evaluation



Sentence Combining is a process of expressing a prescribed thought in the best way. Young writers can begin to consider what style of writing they like and determine how effective writing sounds.

(Saddler, 2012, p.6)

