



BRUSH STROKES

Adapted from *Image Grammar* by Harry R. Noden

Shared by Pam Oberembt

PARTICIPLES

- The verbing you will know how to use this trick effectively
 - -ing verb that works as an adjective = participle
- Think about the openers, interrupters, and closers we have talked about. They are typically offset by commas
- When used individually or in groups they are called participles. You can also have a participial phrase.
- Example: The diamond-scaled snakes attacked their prey (Noden 4).
- Example with participles: **Hissing, slithering, and coiling**, the diamond-scaled snakes attacked their prey (Noden 4).
- Example with participial phrase: **Hissing their red forked tongues and coiling their cold bodies**, the diamond-scaled snakes attacked their prey (Noden 4).

PARTICIPLES

- Your turn:
 - Participles: ____ and ____, the students were sitting in English class.
 - Participial Phrase: _____, the football team went undefeated.
 - Write your own:
 - One sentence using participles
 - One sentence using a participial phrase

ABSOLUTES

- Noun + Participle = Absolute
- Typically don't use more than one or two absolutes in a sentence.
- Absolutes provide strong imagery, focus, and emphasis to that section of the sentence.
- Just like you can with the participle, you can have an absolute phrase.
- Example: The mountain climber edged along the cliff (Noden 6).
- Example with absolutes: **Hands shaking, feet trembling**, the mountain climber edged along the cliff (Noden 6).
- Example with absolute phrase: **Feet trembling on the snow covered rocks**, the mountain climber edged along the cliff (Noden 6).

ABSOLUTES

- Your turn:
 - Absolute: _____, the students were sitting in English class.
 - Absolute Phrase: _____, the students could not wait for basketball season to start.
 - Write your own:
 - One sentence using absolutes
 - One sentence using an absolute phrase

ADJECTIVES OUT OF ORDER

- English is a confusing language with many exceptions
 - One being the order of words in a sentence – not simple like Spanish
- Not all adjectives have to precede a noun.
- This would work well if you had a string of three adjectives. Move a couple adjectives after the noun for emphasis.
- Typical Sentence: The **large, red-eyed, angry** bull charged the intruder (Noden 9).
- Enhanced Sentence: The **large** bull, **red-eyed and angry**, charged the intruder (Noden 9).
- Add adjectives to this sentence, place some “out of order”:
 - The woman smiled upon her newborn great- grandson with pride (Noden 9).

ADJECTIVES OUT OF ORDER

- Your Turn:
 - The ____ cat, ____ and ____ hid underneath the bed.
 - Write your own sentence using adjectives out of order.

APPOSITIVE

- Noun that adds a second image to a preceding noun = Appositive
- You can have an Appositive Phrase; it has a noun with modifiers
- Simple sentence: The raccoon enjoys eating turtle eggs (Noden 8).
- Appositive: The raccoon, **a scavenger**, enjoys eating turtle eggs (Noden 8).
- Appositive Phrase: The raccoon, **a midnight scavenger who roams lake shorelines in search of food**, enjoys eating turtle eggs (Noden 8).

APPOSITIVE

- Your Turn:
 - The student, _____, was eager for class to end.
 - Write your own sentences:
 - One must have an appositive
 - The other must have an appositive phrase

ACTION VERBS

- Eliminate *being* verbs and passive voice.
 - Being verbs tend to slow down the action and don't add to imagery.
 - Passive voice weakens images.
- Example Passive Voice: The runaway horse **was ridden** into town by an old, white-whiskered rancher (Noden 10).
- Active Voice: The white-whiskered rancher **rode** the runaway horse into town (Noden 10).
- Example *Being* Verb: The gravel road **was** on the left side of the barn.
- Removed *Being* Verb: The gravel road **curled** around the left side of the barn (Noden10).
- Voice Practice – Change to Active: The grocery store **was robbed** by two armed men (Noden10).
- Verb Practice – Change to Action Verb: The students **were** in school.

ACTION VERBS

- Your Turn:
 - Write a passive sentence
 - Now change it to active
 - Write a sentence using only a being verb
 - Now change it to have an action verb