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