

Personal Narrative

Day 5 - Word Choice & Conclusions

Word Choice

- ✱ Learning Target - I can replace vague, weak words with precise, descriptive words and phrases.
- ✱ Success Criteria - I will prove this by eliminating the less descriptive words with descriptive words and phrases in my personal narrative.

Essential Question

- ✱ What is a 5 dollar word? Why are they important?

Word Choice

“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.”

- Mark Twain

5 Cents vs. 5 Dollars

FIVE CENT WORDS ARE OVER USED AND TOO COMMON. CHEAP.

**FIVE DOLLAR WORDS ARE DESCRIPTIVE, UNIQUE, AND THOUGHT PROVOKING.
EXPENSIVE.**

<i>5 Cents</i>	<i>5 Dollars</i>
Boat	Yacht, Cruise-liner, vessel, craft
Cup	Vase, mug, chalice
Friend	Companion, confidante, chum, sidekick

5 Cents

5 Dollars

Awesome

Road

Group

Your Turn!

- Writers “show” not “tell”
- Writers use specific nouns, rich verbs, colorful adjectives
- Your Job - **Replace the dead words** (5 cent words) on in your personal narrative with **rich, colorful synonyms!** (5 dollar words)

Conclusion - Goal

- ✱ Learning Target - I can write an effective conclusion with substance.
- ✱ Success Criteria - I will prove this by writing a conclusion that is connected to my narrative piece with a circular, emotional, or surprise ending.

Essential Question

- ✦ What are the three types of conclusions in this presentation? Identify one specific trait from each.

Conclusions

Conclusions are often the most difficult part of an essay to write, and many writers feel that they have nothing left to say after having written the paper. A writer needs to keep in mind that the conclusion is often what a reader remembers best. Your conclusion should be the best part of your paper.

Today we will focus on the following conclusions:

- Circular Ending
- Emotional Ending
- Surprise Ending

Conclusion #1 - Circular Ending

Patricia MacLachlan uses a circular ending in her picture book *Through Grandpa's Eyes* (1980). She repeats the line "because I see it through Grandpa's eyes" in the first paragraph and then again as the last line of the book. The entire book is about how a young boy learn to see the beauty in the world through his grandpa's eyes although his grandpa lost his sight. By the very last line the reader truly understands the depth of the seeing that the boy's grandpa has taught him.

Conclusion #2 - Emotional Ending

In the very last line on Cynthia Rylant's *When I Was Young in the Mountains* (1982), she sums up her experience of what it was like to grow up in the mountains with, "And that was always enough."

A caution to students that an emotional ending cannot come too easily - the writer has to earn it by getting the reader involved in the experience first. For example, if Cynthia Rylant had written only a few line in her

picture book, like, “When I was young in the mountains we had a lot of fun, and did lots of stuff” and then ended it with, “And that was always enough,” the ending wouldn’t mean anything. It would have nothing to resolve or tie together because there’s nothing there that the reader can fully experience.

Conclusion #3 - Surprise Ending

Like an orchestra playing a symphony that ends with a big bang, you can't miss or forget a surprise ending in a piece of writing. I'm using the word surprise loosely here because this doesn't necessarily mean students should write a dramatic surprise that's totally unexpected. For example, if someone has written a story about going for a walk on a spring morning, she doesn't have to add a surprise like "And then the meteors fell on the earth." A surprise could mean anything unusual or a new way or looking at something.

Practice

Think about your “one” and write a rough draft conclusion using one of those previously discussed that fits your story best:

- 1) Circular Ending
- 2) Emotional Ending
- 3) Surprise Ending