



Keys to Content Writing

Roosevelt School District

Issue 4

October 26, 2015

Tips for Top-Down Topic Webs:

- Consider making sets of mini component cards for your students to follow along with as you model. The tactile use of the cards will provide additional support for students to understand the text structure.
- As you model your thinking explicitly when introducing a writing piece with component cards, make notes off to the side about your ideas and thoughts related to the topic so students can see the cognitive process they need to go through when constructing a piece of writing.
- After you model how to construct your ideas for each component, allow students to collaborate to brainstorm and share ideas. Have students give each other feedback.
- Are your students ready for the next step beyond direct modeling of using component cards? Try having students construct notes about their own topic along with you as you facilitate the construction of a top-down topic web. You explain your thinking for each component and then give students time to write notes next to their own cards.

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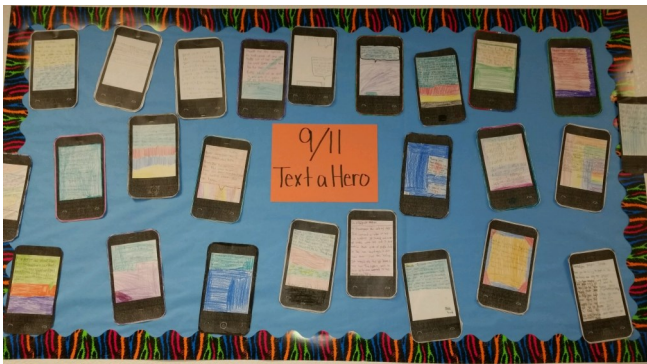
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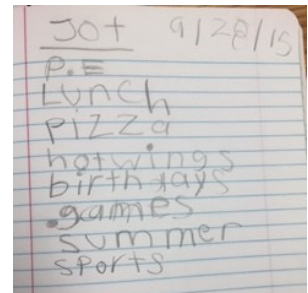
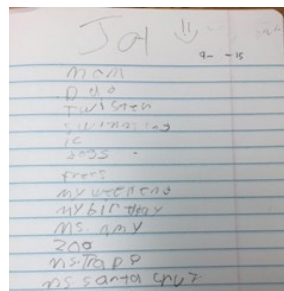
MORE resources

Teacher Spotlight



Students in Mrs. Hunt's 4th grade class at M. O. Bush use Quick Writes to thank heroes on September 11th.

Students in Ms. Trapp's 3rd - 6th Grade class at Conchos jot ideas during the THINK stage of The Process Writing Routine.



Using KTCW in your classroom? Email pictures and a short description to:
Kathryn.lyons@rsd.k12.az.us

The Process Writing Routine

THINK and PLAN Stages:

At these stages, students should be:

- Identifying the audience and purpose
- Brainstorming and narrowing the topic
- Reading and comprehending the source
- Gathering information and taking notes
- Organizing information, notes, and ideas into a logical plan for writing
- Using a graphic organizer, writing template, or other type of scaffold

Each of these could be broken up into mini-lessons!

Need ideas and resources for teaching mini-lessons? Try one of these resources:

ReadWriteThink.org

[Literacy Worldwide](http://LiteracyWorldwide)

[The Educator's Network](http://TheEducatorsNetwork)

Reminders for October 30th PD!



- Use **Component Cards** to teach text structure in your writing lessons. Be prepared to share your experiences and reflections with other teachers.
- Use a **WAG (Writing Assignment Guide)** for a writing prompt in your classroom. Be prepared to share your experiences and reflections.
- *Bring your **Keys to Content Writing** textbook and a fully charged laptop!*

Want to make mini component cards for your students? Want a template for the WAG instead of creating it from scratch?

Visit the [KTCW resources page!](#)

- [Professional Book Discussion Guide for Keys to Content Writing](#)
- [Common Transition Words: Grades 4-12](#)
- [Argument Writing Bridging Language](#)
- Writing Component Cards
 - [Body](#)
 - [Claim](#)
 - [Conclusion](#)
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Keys to Content Writing
Writing Assignment Guide

Writing Assignment: _____

Unit of Study/Content Connection: _____

Learning Outcomes related to standards: _____

Set Goals for the Writing Assignment

Type of writing: __informational__ __argument__ __narrative__ __combo__

Audience: _____

Purpose: _____

Length & Form _____

Due dates: _____

Content and Text Structure Requirements: _____