

The Writing Academy Lesson Plans

Block # 1 - Lesson # 12

Concept: Webbing with VOICE

Learning Style	Auditory Visual Tactile The learning style addressed by the activity will be in bold-faced letters.
Rationale	Students need to understand that developed writing is even better if it has 'Voice'!
Activity	1) Have five students come to the front of the room, and stand in a circle. 2) Hand them a ball of yarn and a set of webbed sentences found on the following pages. 3) Have the five students read their sentences so that the class can hear as they pass the yarn to form a star. 4) The teacher then asks the students in the "audience" what emotion the paragraph evoked. 5) Repeat this process until you have addressed all of the cards that follow. 6) Discuss with the students that these paragraphs had voice because they evoked an emotion in the reader. Also, point out that if you give the entire class the same prompt their papers will all be different, depending on the emotion they want to evoke in their reader. Tell them they have so much power because they can decide what they want their reader to feel! Tell them before they start to write to decide what emotion they want to make their reader feel. The next time you assign a topic, tell the students that you are their reader and you want them to make you happy, or make you sad, or make you laugh, or make you cry, or make you feel sentimental, or make you mad – just don't make you yawn!

The purpose of the following group of paragraphs is to show students how powerful they are as an author. No matter what the prompt, the author has the power to make the reader feel any emotion the author wants them to feel. The following sentences show different paragraphs written in response to the same prompt "Tell about your grandmother's house." To emphasize even more how powerful the author is in being able to evoke different emotions, we have started each paragraph with the same sentence, "I love my grandmother's house."

Webbed Sentences #1 - I love my Grandmother's house.

Main Idea 1	I love my grandmother's house.	K
Web 2	My family always teases each other when we are there.	K
Web 3	My uncle put a wadded up tissue down my mother's back and said it was a white rat!	K
Web 4	We all laughed, except my mother.	K
Web 5	She put shaving cream in my Uncle's chair!	K

Evoking: laughter or humor

Webbed Sentences #2 - I love my Grandmother's house.

Main Idea 1	I love my grandmother's house.	L
Web 2	It is so old that the floors squeak.	L
Web 3	One night as I tried to sleep, I heard something moving across the squeaky floors.	L
Web 4	I wanted to investigate the noise, but I was frozen and could not move.	L
Web 5	I never knew if it was an intruder, or a ghost, or just old house noises.	L

Evoking: fright or making the reader scared.

Webbed Sentences #3 - I love my Grandmother's house.

Main Idea 1	I love my grandmother's house. M
Web 2	It is so old and the paint is cracked. M
Web 3	I sit and hear the adults telling stories as I look at imaginary pictures made from the cracks in the old grey paint. M
Web 4	Sometimes I see animals in the cracked paint, and sometimes I see clouds. M

Web
5

The cracked paint of the porch and the background voices of my relatives talking make me feel safe and content.

M

Evoking: Contentment, or making one feel sentimental

Webbed Sentences #4 - I love my Grandmother's house.

Main Idea 1	I love my grandmother's house.	N
Web 2	That is why I have tears in my eyes.	N
Web 3	Through the tears I watch as the wrecking ball pounds into the sides of the old house.	N
Web 4	As it hits into the front bedroom, I think of my cousins and I playing in the huge closet in that room.	N
Web 5	The closet was so large that we used it for a playhouse.	N

Web 6	N Not only was it a great playhouse, it was also a great place to hide during games of hide-and-seek.
Web 7	N But, whoever hid there was always found, because it was a popular hiding place.
Web 8	N My grandmother's house was a popular place, in general, for all of the cousins.
Web 9	N Now this popular place is being torn down.

Evoking: Sadness

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Block # 1 - Lesson # 13

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Learning Style	Auditory Visual Tactile The learning style addressed by the activity will be in bold-faced letters.
Rationale	Students need to generate webbed VOICE, independently.
Activity	1) Give the students a prompt. (i.e., "Tell about the most influential person in your life.") 2) Have students magnify down to a specific topic. 3) Have them write a paragraph that evokes at least one emotion. 4) Put the students in groups and have them read their paragraphs to each other. The students in the group say what emotion the paper evoked. 5) Have each group choose the paragraph in their group that evoked the most emotion and read it to the entire class.