

Title: Step-By-Step Cartoon Writing

Appropriate Grade Level: Elementary

Brief Description: This intervention gives beginning or reluctant writers experience sequencing steps, using transition words, and writing a paragraph. The novel format makes the task more engaging and relevant. It also takes away the anxiety associated with writing and capitalizes on strengths in other areas like drawing.

Materials Needed:

1. Index cards without lines
2. Colored Pencils
3. Tape
4. Writing materials

Procedure/Steps:

1. Discuss as a group the types of things students do to get ready for school in the morning. Tell students they will be drawing a comic strip about what they do when they get up in the morning.
2. Students draw one event on each index card (e.g., waking up, getting dressed, eating breakfast). Students are encouraged to add detail to their pictures to help them remember exactly what happens.
3. Now students put their ideas in order and tape them together like a comic strip.
4. Before students begin writing, have them use the comic strip as a guide to tell the story out loud.
5. Encourage them to use transition words like first, next, later, and finally. Teachers can post a list of words to use while telling and writing their paragraphs.
6. Students can write one descriptive sentence about each frame of their comic strip to form a paragraph.
7. Attach the final copy to the comic strip and display in the classroom.

Suggestions for Evaluating Effectiveness:

Using the number of errors as a marker, compare paragraphs written in this format to paragraphs written without this structure for a select group of students or for the whole class.

Comments/tips:

If this intervention is successful, use it again with creative writing projects.

Source:

Bos, C.S. & Vaughn, S. (2002). *Strategies for teaching students with learning and behavior problems*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.