

**Lincoln Alternative Elementary
Step Up To Writing
Family Night
March 19, 2008**



Two Kinds of Writing

- **Expository Writing** is writing that tells or gives information
- **Narrative Writing** is writing that tells a story



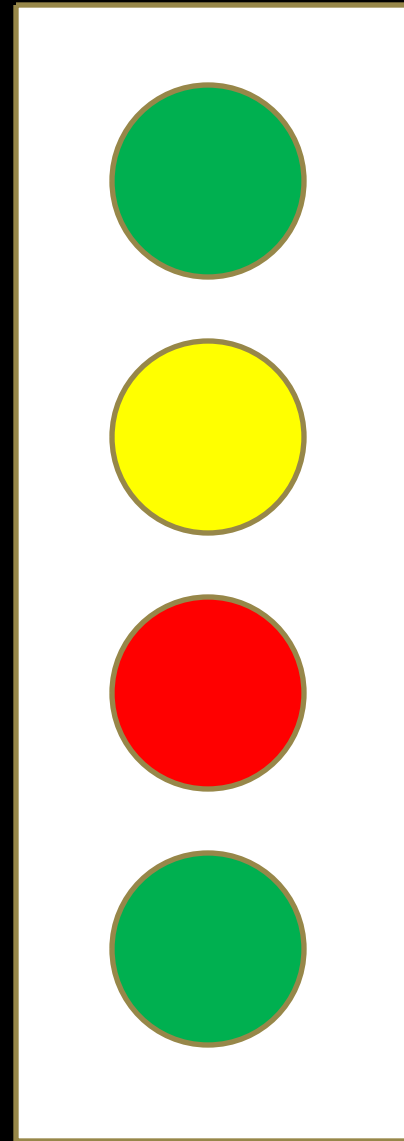
Step Up To Writing

- ▣ District adopted strategies to help students become successful writers.
- ▣ Paragraphs
- ▣ Outlines
- ▣ Summaries
- ▣ Narratives
- ▣ Essays



Step Up To Writing Traffic Signal

- Using the lights from a traffic signal makes it easy to organize information and ideas
- Green – Go! State your topic
- Yellow – Slow Down! Be specific
(transitions)
- Red – Stop! Explain; give
- Green – Go Back! Restate your topic
(Conclusion)
- Directions:** Use the circles to make a signal with the colors for Step Up To Writing



Informal Outlines

Make a plan

- ▣ Before students begin to write, they need to organize their thoughts.
- ▣ We use a T-Chart to separate the details and explanations

T= Lincoln Alternative

*Office staff-Friendly, helpful, caring

*Parents-PTA

-Book Fair

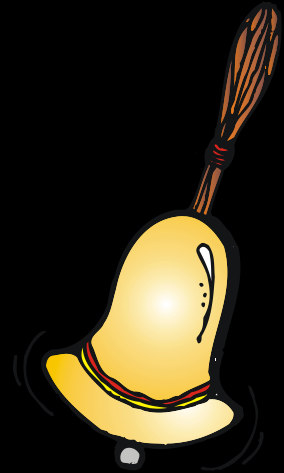
-Family Nights

-Assemblies

*Teachers-Learn a lot

-Fun, smart, caring

C=



Topic Sentences

- ▣ We want our students to write good topic sentences that lead to great paragraphs or essays.
- ▣ In *Step Up To Writing*, 13 different types of topic sentences are highlighted.
- ▣ Power Number Statement
- ▣ Where/When What's Happening
- ▣ Occasion/Position Statements

Power Number Statements

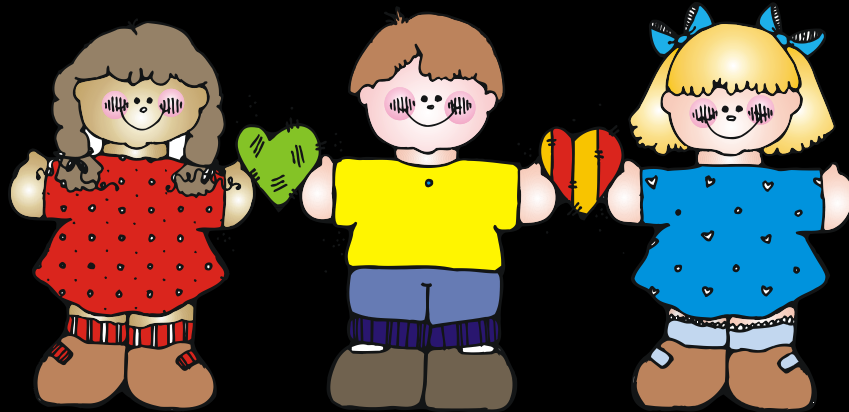
two, several, many, some, three, a few, a couple of

- ▣ Lincoln Alternative is a great school for many reasons.
- ▣ We love Lincoln Alternative for three reasons.



Where/ When What's Happening?

- ▣ In Corona Unified School District, Lincoln Alternative is the best elementary school.
- ▣ This year, Lincoln Alternative is a California Distinguished School nominee.



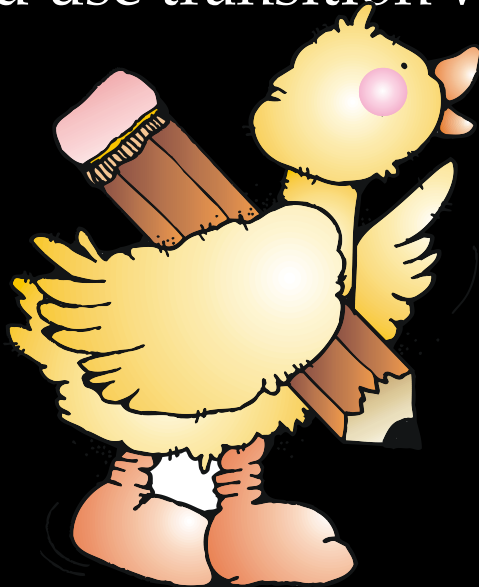
Occasion/Position Statements

After, Even though, If, Although, When, Before, In order to, If,.....

- ▣ These sentences are more for 3rd grade and up. They are compound sentences and they lead to great paragraphs and essays.
- ▣ Although there are many schools in Corona, Lincoln Alternative is the best elementary school.
- ▣ After visiting Lincoln Alternative School, I know it is the best place for my family.

Accordian Paragraphs

- ▣ Students create accordian paragraphs as a draft to go back and work on.
- ▣ We are going to write an accordian paragraph about “Family”.
- ▣ Make sure to use one of the types of topic sentences we spoke about and use transition words.



Let's Write a Narrative

- Look at the picture in the folder.
- Create a quick sketch to tell a story about the picture.
- Make quick notes to go along with the pictures.
- Go back and add Story Transitions and a Beginning.
- Write your story on chart paper.
- Post your story on the wall and be prepared to share with the group.



Summary Topic Sentence

- ▣ Many teachers are assigning these sentences or summaries for homework.
- ▣ Listen to the story How to Lose All Your Friends.
- ▣ Write an IVF for the story and list 4-7 ideas from the story.



Analyze A Paragraph

- ▣ After your child has written an essay or paragraph, have him/her write the first word of each sentence. (see example)
- ▣ Ask your child to change any words that are the same.
- ▣ Try it

I know many things about making friends. First, I am nice to everyone. I ask them if they want to play games with me. Next, I help people. I get bandaids when they get hurt. Finally, I invite them to do things. I ask my friends to go to Graziano's with me. Clearly, I know how to make good friends.

What can parents do to assist their children with writing?

- ▣ After your child reads, ask him/her to write a summary topic sentence. This can be done after each chapter or it can be done orally with kindergarteners: “Clifford’s Vacation tells how Clifford got into trouble while he was with his family.”
- ▣ When your child needs to write a paragraph or essay, help him/her create an informal outline to organize ideas.
- ▣ If you read over your child’s writing look for examples of good topic sentences. The topic sentences will lead to strong paragraphs. Remember, the topic sentence has the main idea in it.
- ▣ When reading over your child’s writing look to see that each sentence begins with a different letter.

THANK YOU