

How Can you Use the Writing Characters to Connect the Curriculum?

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Meet Ida Ideas & Content

• <http://www.helpkidswrite.com/MeetYourFriends/IdaIdeasContent/tabid/58/Default.aspx>

❖ Meet Ida Ideas & Content

- ❖ Hi! I'm Ida Ideas & Content. Before you write, it is important to find the right ideas that fit your topic and main idea.
- ❖ Look at the idea box I'm holding. This holds your ideas, or content.
- ❖ Once you have your topic, like "The Zoo," you can start brainstorming for words that fit in the box. You can add words like, "lion, zookeeper, cage and feeding time."
- ❖ Make sure you aren't trying to write a story about the entire zoo. This would be overstuffing the box.

Pick a Topic for a writing assignment for your class that will help reinforce your curriculum.

- Write directions for Step 1 of the assignment for your students.
- Use Ida to give this assignment – ex “Hi, I’m Ida Ideas and right now I want you to think of some things to fill my content box. The Title of this box is “ Types of Drama”.
- What are the types of drama? Can you use at least one sentence to describe each?
- If you don’t remember the Types of Drama you can find more information here: <http://www.lifestreamcenter.net/DrB/Lessons/Drama.htm>

Oliver Organization

Find fantastic printable graphic organizers at www.freeology.com

- **Hello. First let me introduce myself. I'm Oliver. I would love to help you get organized.**
- **Do your parents sometimes ask you to clean up your room? I know that's not very fun. But once you arrange everything don't you feel better? That's because everything has a place. Just like your clothes belong in your closet and your CDs belong in their cases, different parts of your writing have a place too.**
- **First, check out my train! See how there's a beginning, middle and end?**
- **I can help you put your ideas in order. Sometimes paragraphs need to be put in order. Other times sentences can be rearranged in the best order.**
- **Here's an example. Check out these sentences about soccer:**
- **"(1) You can kick a soccer ball with the top or side of your foot. (2) When you are shooting a goal you will usually use the top of your foot. (3) Many players use the inside of their foot to pass. (4) The ball should make contact with your laces. (5) The outside of the foot is rarely used to kick the ball"**
- **Which sentence should be moved?**
- **That's right. Sentence (4) should come right after sentence (2). It would make more sense to say "When you are shooting a goal you will usually use the top of your foot." Then say, "The ball should make contact with your laces."**

Choose a Graphic Organizer for students to use to organize the content of their Essay.

- I am Oliver, and I want you to organize the content about Styles of Drama that you have placed in Ida's box.
- Using the Graphic Organizer I have given you, please take all of the information from the box and sort it into appropriate categories. Remember – details count!

Veronica Voice

- **Hi! I'm Veronica Voice. I can help you put voice into your writing and teach you how to make your writing sound unique, like you!**
- **Your voice is also like the feeling you put into your writing.**
- **Are you writing about something exciting like your favorite waterslide? Or are you writing about something sad like your best friend moving away? Maybe you are trying to be persuasive and writing to convince your classmates to pick up trash on campus.**
- **When you write, your voice should match your purpose. Is your writing unique like you?**

What kind of Essay are you asking your students to write? Expository, Narrative, or Persuasive?

- I am Veronica and I am going to help you find your voice for this essay assignment. This essay is expository, meaning I am looking for you to inform me about the Styles of Drama. If I am presenting facts...should I:
- *Door # 1* - speak in 1st person? Or....
- *Door # 2* - Should I try to convince you that the styles of drama are the best thing since sliced bread? Or....
- *Door # 3* - Or should I just inform you about the different styles of drama in such a way that you would really understand them if you didn't already know what they are?
- The Correct Answer is Door # 3. Now write your essay using an informative 'teaching' voice.

Wendy Word Choice

- Hi! I'm Wendy Word Choice. I can help you find the best words when you write.
- Sometimes writers repeat words over and over. Like, "We had a fun time. The movie was fun. I think my brother had a fun time too."
- I like to help students find more colorful words instead of repeating the same words.
- Did you notice the dinosaur on my computer? That's Thesaurus (I named him after my favorite book).
- Sometimes you can use a thesaurus, which is actually book of synonyms, when you write.

Are your students using a variety of words or do they repeat their word choices over and over? Could they make better word choices?

- I am Wendy Word Choice and I want you to review your essay right now. Please use a highlighter or colored pencil to mark any repeated words in your essay. Also mark any words that are simple
- Any word you repeat over and over you need to work to find another word or phrase to take its place at least half of the time.
- Please go through your essay, and use a thesaurus to find new words to replace those you use over and over again.

Simon Sentence Fluency

- **Hi! I'm Simon Sentence Fluency. I love to skate across sentences to see if they flow. I listen to my music player because I love to hear the rhythm and flow.**
- **I like to skate over a variety of sentences. Sometimes sentences are too short and choppy and my skateboard gets stuck. Like, "I went to the zoo. I saw a lion. I saw a bat. I saw a fox." These sentences are all the same length and don't flow when they are read out loud.**
- **Sometimes sentences are too long and I get tired when I try to skate over them.**
- **When I skate into your class, I'll help you choose a variety of sentences that go with the flow!**

Sentence Structure an issue? Put Simon to work.

- Hi, I'm Simon Sentence Structure. I prefer to skate my way over smoooooth sentences. Pass your essay to a buddy. Have them circle sentence fragments, underline run-on sentences, and highlight any big glaring grammar boo boos like punctuation and spelling. Make sure your Buddy puts their signature on the top of your paper after marking it up for you!
- Get your paper back, fix your errors and write a final draft!