

Teaching Notes

The goal of L.5.3.A is for students to learn how to expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader or listener interest, and style. Teachers can tie this standard into any lesson on revising writing. The goal of revising writing is to create a final, interesting piece that is organized, clear, and concise. By achieving a variety in sentence structure, students can enhance their writing. Having students practice the skills of expanding, combining, and reducing sentences in isolation gives them a chance to exhibit mastery before they are expected to do these things automatically when revising their writing pieces. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Activities

1. Write sets of short sentences on the board. Ask students to combine them. Make sure students use coordinate conjunctions to combine independent clauses or subordinate conjunctions with dependent clauses to create the new sentences.
2. Write a short, simple sentence on the board. Ask students to expand the sentence to make it as interesting as possible. Have students share their expanded sentences with the class, or write all of the new sentences on a sheet of poster board to display in the classroom.
3. Have students write paragraphs full of short, choppy sentences. Then, have students switch paragraphs with a partner to combine and expand sentences to improve the paragraphs.
4. Have students write paragraphs full of long, wordy, and redundant sentences. Then, have students switch paragraphs with a partner to reduce sentences to improve the paragraphs.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching L.5.3.A:

“Demonstrate Syntactic Variety”: This web page has links to worksheets on sentence variety, sentence combining, and compound sentences:

- http://www.internet4classrooms.com/grade_level_help/writing_syntactic_variety_language_arts_fifth_5th_grade.htm

“Sentence Variety”: This web page has a lesson plan on sentence variety with differentiation and extensions for different learners:

- <http://www.education.com/lesson-plan/identifying-conflict-in-a-story/>

“Expand It! Writing Complex Sentences”: This website provides a practice worksheet for students to write complex sentences. It includes an answer key:

- <http://www.k12reader.com/worksheet/expand-it-writing-complex-sentences/view/>

“Combining, Expanding, and Reducing Sentences”: These two worksheets provide students with an opportunity to write and rewrite paragraphs by combining sentences:

- <http://www.englishworksheetsland.com/grade5/language/13combine/1tornado.pdf>
- <http://www.englishworksheetsland.com/grade5/language/13combine/4combine.pdf>

“Style: Reducing Wordiness”: This PDF provides more detailed instruction and examples on eliminating unnecessary words and phrases to reduce sentences:

- <http://writingcenter.ua.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/reducingwordiness.pdf>