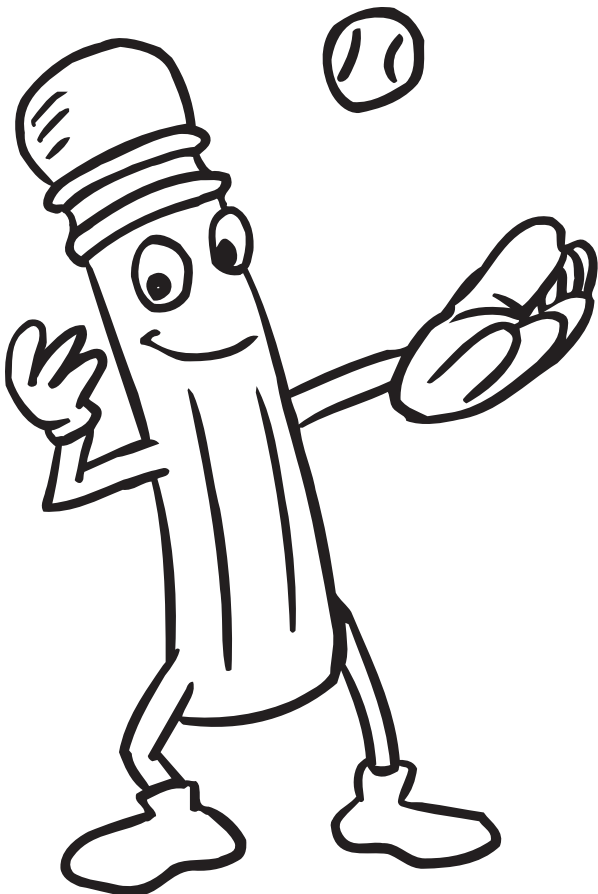


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Coach's Playbook

Elaboration



Here's a good news/bad news joke.

Let's start with the bad news: Of all the elements of writing, elaboration is probably the most difficult to teach.

Just what you wanted to hear, wasn't it?

Now for the good news: The following pages were created to make it easy for you.

Elaboration is all about the details—which to include and how to make them interesting on paper. The Elaboration section in this book is the largest because elaboration requires a great deal of practice. And we certainly have provided you with a ton of it!

The practice pages begin with having students identify the different elements of elaboration. The next exercises require them to practice elaboration at an easy level, where students only give one small piece of extension. These practice pages build slowly to develop complete elaboration, where students have to provide all the details in a paragraph.

The Teacher's Reference Pages are provided with a running commentary on the paragraph's elaboration so you can understand the elements easily.

We believe using the models and the practice will help your students understand the elements of elaboration and their importance to strong writing. Continued practice will transform thin and mediocre writing into writing that is authentically powerful.



Elaboration 1



Leaving out ELABORATION is like striking out on your first at bat. You've got nothing. In order to score BIG with your writing, you've got to SEE it clearly.

- Include: S—Supporting detail
E—Example
E—Extension



ELABORATION

In the following paragraph, the first sentence is the MAIN IDEA. The next sentence has SUPPORTING DETAIL. The third sentence is the EXAMPLE. All the sentences that follow extend the example; they are the EXTENSION. They tell more about the example.

My brother is quite annoying. He never leaves me alone. He follows me wherever I go. While he follows me, he also mimics everything I do and say. If I go outside and climb our jungle gym, he's out there like my shadow doing the same thing. If I'm talking to my friends on the phone, he'll say exactly what I'm saying but in a louder voice. I'm thinking of not showering for a couple of days to see if my terrible body odor will keep him away.



KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL! Can you SEE it? Read the next paragraph. Then underline the MAIN IDEA. Circle the SUPPORTING DETAIL. Put a dotted line under the EXAMPLE. Draw a box around the EXTENSION.

My grandmother is not like any other grandmother I know. She is unique because, even for a 79-year-old woman, she is fearless. She rides a Harley™ cross-country every summer to visit us. That's over a thousand miles by herself. Every birthday since her 70th, she has bungee jumped off a nearby bridge in Eugene, Oregon, where she lives. She says it keeps her feeling young.



ELABORATION

Elaboration 1

Scorecard



ANSWERS

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL! Can you SEE it? Read the next paragraph. Then underline the **MAIN IDEA**. Circle the **SUPPORTING DETAIL**. Put a dotted line under the **EXAMPLE**. Draw a box around the **EXTENSION**.

My grandmother is not like any other grandmother I know. (She is unique because,

This is the main idea of this paragraph.

This is the supporting

even for a 79-year-old woman, she is fearless.) She rides a Harley™ cross-country

detail because it is about the main idea.

This is more information about the

every summer to visit us. [That's over a thousand miles by herself. Every birthday since

supporting detail—like proof.

Even more information about her trip.

her 70th, she has bungee jumped off a nearby bridge in Eugene, Oregon, where she

This is more information that proves the supporting detail.

lives. She says it keeps her feeling young.

This ties up the paragraph.

