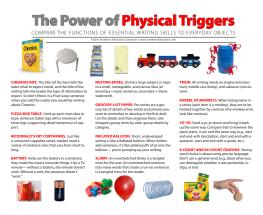
Invigorate lessons with tangible triggers

Connect writing lessons to concrete triggers

Physical objects can make 6-Traits writing lessons more powerful. Not only do they ramp up the level of student engagement, but they also help students remember the purpose and function of specific writing skills.

When identifying a mini-lesson trigger, first consider the function of the writing skill. The key is to really understand the purpose the skill serves within writing. With that knowledge, then think about what object in the real world works like that.

For example, when teaching students to narrow their topics, the goal is to show them how to go from a large, broad subject to something smaller, more finite. It's all about shrinking the topic. Everyday items that get smaller are Russian stacking dolls, Tupperware, and nesting boxes. Using one of those objects as part of the lesson helps students to visualize the idea of starting with something big and moving to something much smaller, much more focused.



When planning a lesson on avoiding run-ons, think first about the effect of such a sentence. It's too many words. It's too long. The reader gets confused. It's like a tangled mess of words. Now consider what real-world object gets tangled when it's stretched or pulled too long--a Slinky. If you overstretch a Slinky, it becomes a tangled mess. That's exactly what run-on sentences do to readers; they tangle them in a mess of details.

Utilizing concrete triggers helps students better relate to the skill being taught, how to utilize it in their writing, and how to remember it as they continue to learn more.

BEST PRACTICE STRATEGY: Writer's Workshop

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