

# The Power of Physical Triggers

COMPARE THE FUNCTIONS OF ESSENTIAL WRITING SKILLS TO EVERYDAY OBJECTS

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**CHEERIOS BOX.** The title (of the box) tells the eater what to expect inside, and the title of the writing tells the reader the type of information to expect. So don't throw in a Fruit-Loop sentence when you told the reader you would be writing about Cheerios.

**PIZZA-BOX TABLE.** Hold up each main idea or topic sentence (table top) with a minimum of three legs (supporting detail sentences) of support.

**MCDONALD'S FRY CONTAINERS.** Just like a consumer's appetite varies, readers need a variety of sentence sizes that vary from short to long.

**BATTERY.** Verbs are the battery in a sentence; they make the nouns move/do things. Like a TV remote— without a battery, the remote doesn't work. Without a verb, the sentence doesn't "work."

**NESTING BOXES.** Shrink a large subject or topic to a small, manageable, and narrow idea (elementary = topic sentence, secondary = thesis statement).

**GROCERY-LIST PAPER.** Pre-writes are a grocery-list of details of key words and phrases you want to remember to develop in the first draft. List the details and then organize them. Like shoppers group items by aisle, group details by category.

**INFLATED BALLOON.** Short, undeveloped writing is like a deflated balloon. When writers add sentences, it's like added puffs of air into the balloon— you're pumping up your writing.

**SLINKY.** An overstretched Slinky is a tangled mess for the user. An overstretched sentence (too many words that create a run-on sentence) is a tangled mess for the reader.

**TRAIN.** All writing needs an engine (introduction), middle cars (body), and caboose (conclusion).

**BARREL OF MONKEYS.** When listing items in a series (each item is a monkey), they are to be hooked together by commas (the monkey arms look like commas).

**YO-YO.** Send a yo-yo down and bring it back up the same way. Compare that to however the piece starts, it can end the same way (e.g., start and end with description, start and end with a question, start and end with a quote, etc.).

**8-COUNT AND 64-COUNT CRAYONS.** Strong word choice is about using precise language. Don't use a general word (e.g., blue) when you can distinguish whether it was periwinkle, indigo, or teal.

