

## **The Power of Revision**

**To create vivid scenes in narrative and expository writing: How? Why? What?**

**When you revise, you are strengthening your writing muscles by trying to do something more than one way. You shape and reshape a piece by changing it and adding to it. Think of what you want to say and work towards your goal.**

**You can make revisions at any stage in the writing process.**

**Identify ideas that are started and stopped too short.**

**Make sure your readers have no questions about what you are explaining in your piece. When you are not descriptive and your writing does not answer those questions your reader has, they'll begin wondering... How are having batteries during a hurricane important? Why is it important to have a generator? What happens when you aren't prepared...?**

**When you read, I want you to start envisioning what the writer explains. You will see what the writer explains as a movie.**

- 1. Look at your lead. Did it grab your reader's attention?**
- 2. Find sentences in your writing that failed to show action. Identify ideas that are started and stopped too short.**
- 3. Do YOU have any questions about what you are explaining in your piece? Obviously the reader cannot read your mind.**
- 4. Can you see anything from your paper on a television screen in your mind? When you get to parts, do you see anything missing, where your screen goes kind of blank for a minute?**
- 5. Look at your conclusion. Does it wrap up the piece nicely? Or are you... stuck? Is it too abrupt?**

# **PART ONE** **LEADS!!**

## **Sample Leads**

**It is hurricane season in Florida. In your head you know an emergency plan must be made in case of a hurricane.**  
**(Original)**

**Winds at 100 miles per hour, windows creaking. What should you do at a time like this?**

- a. Panic**
- b. Try to calm yourself down**
- c. Get everything together**

**The answer is c, get everything together so that is what I am supposed to do right now. Okay, my checklist... get a lot of food, make sure you have a lot of water, and supply yourself with a generator. Check, check, and check!**  
**(Slightly edited)**

**If you are in the middle of a hurricane with doors rattling and the sounds of rocks and branches hitting your house, then your power goes out and your food goes bad. You can find things to help you in the case of a hurricane hitting your house. Here's what you can do about it.**  
**(Original)**

**If you are in a 106 mile an hour hurricane without electricity or you have debris in your house with a broken window, you should know ways in which to be prepared.**  
**(Slightly edited)**

**Winds gusting, houses blowing down... does this describe a hurricane? It sure does to me. This is what I would do before a hurricane comes: gather wood, get non-perishable food items/water, and purchase a generator.**  
**(Slightly edited)**

## **Lead Components**

<b>What</b>	<b>What it looks like</b>	<b>Why it is neat/example</b>
<b>The colon</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>It is neat because it can bring thoughts together and not make sentences choppy. It helps to make a longer sentence without it being a run-on!!</b>  <b><i>This is what I would do before a hurricane comes: gather wood, get non-perishable food items/water, and purchase a generator.</i></b>

<b>Dot dot dots</b>	...	<p>These are just neat to include in writing.</p> <p><i>Okay, my checklist... get a lot of food, make sure you have a lot of water, and supply yourself with a generator.</i></p>
<b>Questions</b>	? (Your lead begins as a question)	<p><i><u>Have you ever imagined dazzling others with your cooking skills before? Well, everyone has a few foods they wish they could prepare for others with ease!</u></i></p>
<b>Quote</b>	Brings an image of someone speaking at the beginning of writing	<p><i><u>"We have issued a hurricane warning, and this is predicted to be a level 4. We recommend that you evacuate from your house as immediately as possible," a man from the National Weather Service announced on the television. What would you do in a time like this?</u></i></p>
<b>Definition</b>	Basically telling what something is in the first sentence.	<p><i><u>Hurricanes are times in which people panic and some are far from prepared. How would you prepare in a time like a hurricane?</u></i></p>
<b>Picture This</b>	The writer gets an image in the reader's mind from the get-go.	<p><i><u>If you are in the middle of a hurricane with doors rattling and the sounds of rocks and branches hitting your house, then your power goes out and your food goes bad. You can find things to help you in the case of a hurricane hitting your house. Here's what you can do about it.</u></i></p>
<b>Multiple Choice Quiz</b>	<p>A few intro sentences</p> <p>a. b. c.</p> <p>Get out of the intro with a sentence or two.</p>	<p><b>I LOVE</b> this choice. It is a neat way to get your reader thinking and gives your piece a lot of voice.</p> <p><i><u>Winds at 100 miles per hour, windows creaking. What should you do at a time like this?</u></i></p> <p>a. <u>Panic</u> b. <u>Try to calm yourself down</u> c. <u>Get everything together</u></p>



**Introduction paragraph for a paper about your dream house:**

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**Introduction paragraph for a paper about a theme park or neat travel destination (for example, St. Augustine or New York City):**

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**Introduction paragraph for a paper about things to do on a rainy day:**

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## **PART TWO**

### **ENDINGS! (The Fifth Paragraph in Expository Writing)**

**Endings are important because they are the reader's last impression of you as an author. You cannot just cut the reader off after the third main idea and then go "la di da".**

**Sometimes ending with a basic statement is nice. Something that basically ties it all together...**

#### **Examples:**

**I just told you how you could get ready for a hurricane- buy wood, get food supplies, and maybe buy a generator. Next time a hurricane comes, you should know what to do. I'm depending on you!**

**(This underlined part is outstanding.)**

**It's always a good idea to be prepared for a hurricane and even better to start early. (This was pretty basic, but it sounded nice when I read it over a few times. I like how this reader said "always a good idea" and then "even better to".)**

#### **Non-Examples:**

**-That is all.**

**-My closing to refresh your memory you can do these things.**

**-If you want to hear what I just said, then reread all of what the paragraphs and details.**

**-Well, that's all I have to say! Thanks for reading.**

**-I would do things this way. How would you do it?**

**-That is my story preparing wood, water, and food for a big hurricane to hit.**

**-Hope you have a wonderful day!**

**-I hope you do the same thing too now that the end of my story to you.**

#### **Hints for writing conclusions:**

- 1. Make sure you are pretty quick at exiting. Three sentences at most.**
- 2. Make sure the ending has to do with the paper and references the topic of the paper again.**

## Conclusion Practice

**You just wrote a paper about hurricanes. How would you write the conclusion paragraph?**

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**You just wrote a paper about having classroom pets. How would you write the conclusion paragraph?**

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**You just wrote a paper about an animal you always wanted. How would you write the conclusion paragraph?**

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**You just wrote a paper about your favorite hobby. How would you write the conclusion paragraph?**

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**You just wrote a paper about a great travel destination. How would you write the conclusion paragraph?**

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