

Image Grammar

Chapter 4

Teaching Voice

To teach students how to incorporate voice into their writing, the *Van Gogh Approach* will be **used**. Voice represents the rhythm and sound of the author's words. Voice creates a persona of the author's personality. If you look at different paintings by different artists, for example, Claude Monet, Van Gogh and Picasso you can easily identify which artistic style matches the painter. The same thing can be done for writers. For instance, Stephen King's **writing and** Earnest Hemingway's writing can usually be distinguished **from one another** quite easily. Different writers use different grammatical approaches, **which** characterize their writing, just like different artists use different styles of painting to characterize their artwork.

Procedure

Discussion in groups: **What** enables us to recognize a piece written by Hemmingway and know that it is not written by Bill Cosby or Stephen King?

1. Have student's create a short story individually.
2. Pick out some of the characteristics in their story that characterize their voice. Such as, structure, links, transitions, or effects.
3. Make a list of those characteristics.
4. Switch papers with a partner and have the partner take the same story and rewrite the story using their own voice.
5. Make a list of their characteristics.
6. Discuss what characteristics make their papers different.

Modifications

- Instead of having students create their own stories use a previous written story such as "Humpty Dumpty" or for more advance grammar students, "Old Man and the Sea."
- Give a list to the students containing different voices the students can use, i.e. a child's voice, a news reporter's voice.
- To make this a satirical project the student could pick their favorite famous person and imitate their voice in their writing.