

**Grammar Modeling**

Use this sheet to list any interesting writing techniques you've seen in our reading.

<b>Word Level</b>	<b>Sentence-level</b>
<b>Paragraph-level</b>	<b>Story-level</b>

**This doesn't fit any of the above, I think, but I still like it....**

## Grammar as a Model

---

One of the most powerful grammatical tools teachers have at our disposal are the words of master craftsman and craftswomen. There is a certain innate transferal that occurs when we read the text of others. We can made this transferal more explicit and effective with our students by forefronting the issues and making them objects of discussion. We can then integrate these skills into the work of our students.

The sheet on the backside of this handout is one that I use with students, ranging from advanced middle school to college. In each case, it empowers students to see text as a palette from which they can pull techniques. Usually, I have them use this as we're preparing for a writing project. We will

- Read representative examples of the genre we are going to write in
- Analyze the good/bad traits of examples of that genre
- Closely read authors and examples they are impressed with and then glean important grammatical techniques that they can use.

### *Our activity...*

Pretend that you are a student-writer and your class is getting ready to write a 'feature' story/creative non-fiction piece, in the tradition of a journalist. Read through the P.J. O'Rourke article. O'Rourke is a somewhat controversial writer at times, but one thing most people can agree upon is that he is an outstanding craftsman of language. As you do this, look at how he manipulates the language to meet his needs as a writer. What can we take from him as writers?