**Writing Tricks Strategies**

**First Quarter:**

1. **Where/When**

A sentence that explains Where and When an event takes place.

*Sally hid from the other children.*

Where = In the corner of the closet When = while playing hide and seek.

*Sally hid from the other children in the corner of the closet while playing hide and seek.*

1. **Personification**

Giving human qualities, feelings or actions to objects or animals is called personification.

*The trees stood tall guarding the park.*

Human Quality: standing “stood”

Human Action: guarding

1. **Simile/Metaphor**

Similes compare on thing to another using ‘like” or “as.

*The lights shined as bright as the sun.*

Metaphors make a direct comparison often using “is”, “are”, “was”, “were”, and “am”.

*I am a computer when it comes to addition.*

1. **Adjectives**

Make this writing trick by putting 2 or 3 adjectives (separated by commas) in front of a noun.

*He may be a tall, skinny boy, but he is a fast, athletic runner.*

**Second Quarter:**

1. **Dialogue**

Three ways to write dialogue.

1. “Clean your room, or no dessert for you,” said Mom.
2. “Clean your room,” said Mom, “or no dessert for you.”
3. Mom said, “Clean your room, or no dessert for you.”
4. **Idioms**

An idiom is an expression that may, or may not, make sense when you first read it. However, it does have a certain meaning when used properly.

“To cry wolf” means to give a false alarm.

If you have “ants in your pants”, it means that you are restless and can’t sit still.

1. **Vaunting Verbs**

“Vaunting” means to brag. A verb worth bragging about is a Vaunting Verb. Using exciting verbs is a quick way to improve any writing. Replacing a boring verb with a better verb makes your writing better.

“There’s a spider on your shoulder,” said Debbie.

“There’s a spider on your shoulder,” shrieked Debbie.

1. **Ly-How Adverbs**

Adverbs describe verbs. Ly-How adverbs describe HOW verbs act.

*Cynthia waited patiently while Thomas beat on the table annoyingly.*

**Third Quarter:**

1. **Hyperbole**

A hyperbole is an exaggeration. Use it when you really want to make a point.

*“I’m so angry my head will explode. “* - Point= I am VERY angry.

1. **Prepositional Phrases**

Prepositional phrases begin with prepositions. These phrases usually tell when, where, or how and action takes place.

*During the storm we sat around the fireplace in our pajamas drinking hot cocoa.*

1. **Introductory Clause**

A clause has a subject and a verb. The Introductory Clause writing trick will begin with a subordinate conjunction. The introductory clause is an incomplete sentence that will need a complete sentence to finish its thought.

*Whenever we go to the movies, I like to sit in the back row.*

1. **Compound Sentence**

A compound sentence is formed when two simple sentences are joined by a coordinate conjunction and a comma. The three coordinate conjunctions are:

And/ but/ or

The girls went to the movies. The boys played games at home.

turns into….

*The girls went to the movies****, and*** *the boys played games at home.*

**Fourth Quarter:**

1. **Direct Address**

When you state the name of your subject as you address it, you are using direct address. There are three ways to write it:

1. “ Emily, you may have some cookies if you help me bake them.”
2. “You may have some cookies, Emily, if you help me bake them.”
3. “You may have some cookies if you help me bake them, Emily.”
4. **Interrupter**

An interrupter interrupts the normal flow of thought in a sentence. It is surrounded by commas.

*The birthday girl****, of course,*** *will get to go first.*

1. **Appositives**

An appositive renames a person, place, or thing to help the reader understand it better. You might write: “Mr. Smith made me run a lap.” Mr. Smith may be your coach, but the reader doesn’t know him, so you need to explain it.

“Mr. Smith, my basketball coach, made me run a lap.”

or

“My basketball coach, Mr. Smith, made me run a lap.”

1. **Words/Phrases in a Series**

You can put many details in one sentence with lists, or series. Be sure to use commas after every item in the list except the last one.

*Everyone brought nice* ***clothes, good music, and big smiles*** *to the dance.*