

Extreme Makeover Writing Edition Literacy Center



ELA Core Plans

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

Thank you for purchasing this teaching unit. We hope you love it!
Tammy and Shannon



DO NOT PHOTOCOPY
(Except for your own classroom)



DO NOT POST ONLINE.

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ELA Core Plans
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Literacy Center Extreme Makeover Writing Edition

Set up the center

- Print the essays and stories and place them in a folder or three-ring binder.
- If you are using a computer for this station, you can load the editable writing samples included in this packet. Or, you can have students type the essays/stories as they revise them.
- Copy the directions and frequently asked questions about directions, and place in a page protector. If you are using folders, you can tape these directions on the outside of the folder.
- If you are not using a computer, place paper at the station or in the binder for students to use as they revise these essays. You may wish to display students' revisions on a board or wall in your room.

There is an editable version of the writing samples included in case you would like to upload these essays so that students can revise them using a computer.

Directions

1. Choose one essay or story to revise.
2. Do not write on the essay or story.
3. You may use a computer if your teacher allows.
4. If you are not using a computer, write your name on a sheet of notebook paper.
5. Write the number of the sample on your notebook paper, or type it if you are using a computer (ex. Sample # 4)
6. Rewrite the story or essay making revisions. This is called *Extreme Makeover ~ Writing Edition*, so let's see how much better you can make it!
7. Work on improving the word choice, sentence fluency, the beginning, and the ending. Also, you may add details, suspense, and voice!

Frequently Asked Questions About Directions

Q. If I am working with a partner, can only one of us write the story or essay, or do we both have to write ?

A. You both need to write the paragraphs so that each of you has a finished product to be graded. You may both write the same thing or choose to do your own. If you are sharing a computer, you can have one person type as you both do the revisions, and then print two copies, one for both of you.

Q. What am I supposed to do?

A. Your job is to revise this essay. Make it better than it is. Look up better words to use, add details, add suspense, make it more funny, etc.

For example: *Suddenly, I saw a big dog.* This sentence can be revised to say the following: *Suddenly, I spotted a huge black and white mutt with a snarling mouth and a look of rage in his eyes.*

Q. Am I writing a different story or my own essay?

A. No, not really. However, when you are finished you may end up with a much different one. Your job is to revise one of the stories or essays – to give it an extreme makeover!

Q. Where do I write the story or essay?

A. On a sheet of notebook paper unless you are using a computer.

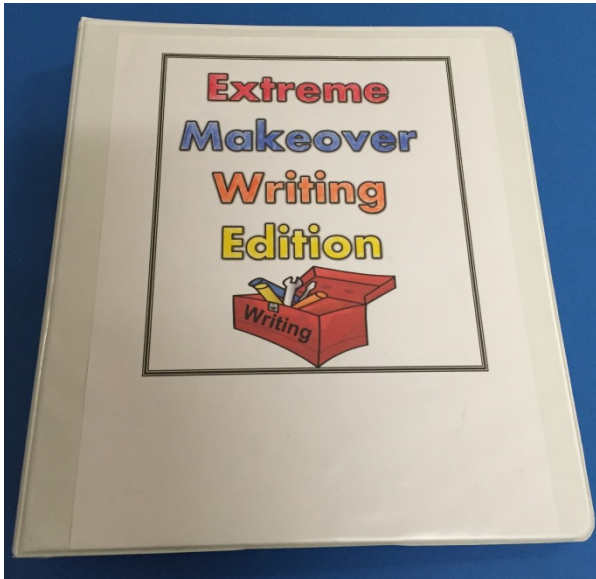
Q. Can I choose any essay or story, or do I have to start with number one?

A. You may choose any one of them.

Q. What do I do if I finish early?

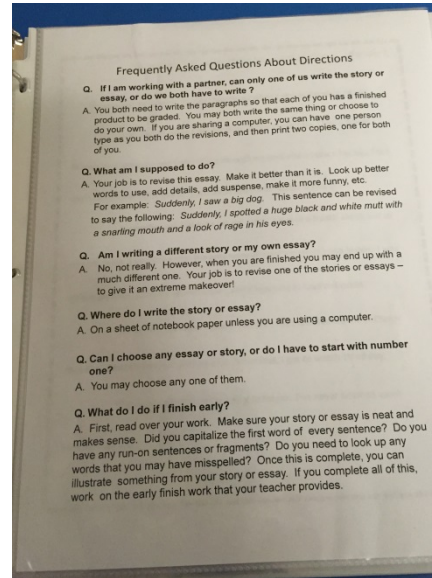
A. First, read over your work. Make sure your story or essay is neat and makes sense. Did you capitalize the first word of every sentence? Do you have any run-on sentences or fragments? Do you need to look up any words that you may have misspelled? Once this is complete, you can illustrate something from your story or essay. If you complete all of this, work on the early finish work that your teacher provides.

Take a Look at the Center in a Binder!

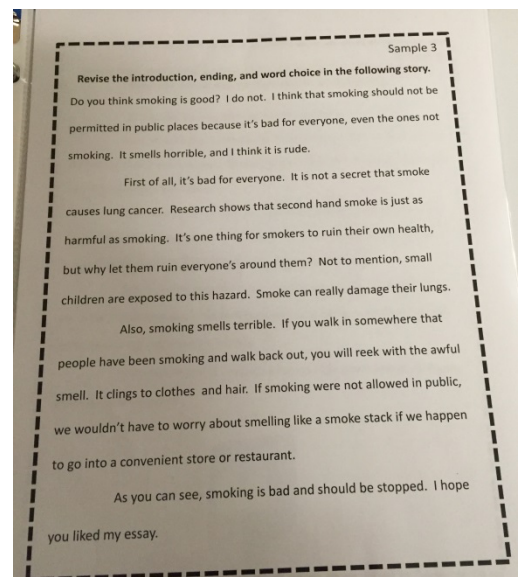


Everything fits nicely in a binder!

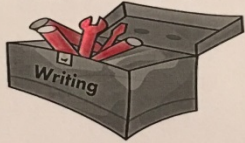
Place the essays and stories in the binder. Also, notebook paper should be placed in the binder for students to use to write their revisions unless you are using a computer.



Frequently asked questions about the directions are placed in the front of binder to help students who are unsure of what to do.



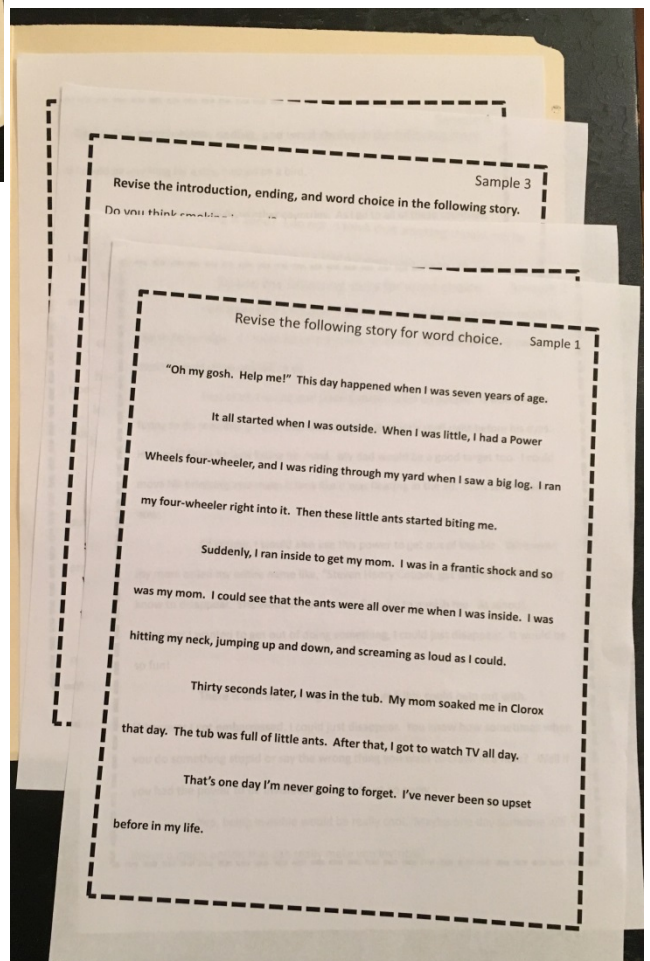
Extreme Makeover Writing Edition



Directions

1. Choose one essay or story to revise.
2. Do not write on the essay or story.
3. Write your name on a sheet of notebook paper.
4. Write the number of the sample on your notebook paper. (ex. Sample # 4)
5. Rewrite the story or essay making revisions. This is called *Extreme Makeover ~ Writing Edition*, so let's see how much better you can make it!

If using folders for your centers, place notebook paper and these writing samples inside. The stories/essays can be printed on cardstock for durability.



Extreme Makeover Writing Edition



Revise the following story for word choice.

Sample 1

“Oh my gosh. Help me!” This day happened when I was seven years of age.

It all started when I was outside. When I was little, I had a Power Wheels four-wheeler, and I was riding through my yard when I saw a big log. I ran my four-wheeler right into it. Then these little ants started biting me.

Suddenly, I ran inside to get my mom. I was in a frantic shock and so was my mom. I could see that the ants were all over me when I was inside. I was hitting my neck, jumping up and down, and screaming as loud as I could.

Thirty seconds later, I was in the tub. My mom soaked me in Clorox that day. The tub was full of little ants. After that, I got to watch TV all day.

That’s one day I’m never going to forget. I’ve never been so upset before in my life.

Revise the following story for word choice. Sample 2

I bet there isn't a kid alive who has never thought about what it would be like to be invisible. If I could become invisible whenever I wanted, there are several cool things that I would like to do.

First of all, I would play some practical jokes on people. It would be so funny to do something funny like take away my brother's stuff right before his eyes. He would think he was losing his mind. My dad would be a good target too. I could move his briefcase and make it look like it was floating in the air. I can see his face now.

Of course, I would also use this power to get out of trouble. Whenever my mom called my entire name like, "Steven Henry Cooper, get down here!" I would know to disappear. She wouldn't be able to find me to punish me. At school, whenever I wanted to get out of doing something, I could just disappear. It would be so fun!

There is one more thing that being invisible could help out with. Whenever I got embarrassed, I could just disappear. You know how sometimes when you do something stupid or say the wrong thing you want to crawl in a hole? Well if you had the power to be invisible, you could just go away.

Yep, being invisible would be really cool. Maybe one day someone will invent a magic potion that can really make people invisible!

Revise the introduction, ending, and word choice in the following story.

Do you think smoking is good? I do not. I think that smoking should not be permitted in public places because it's bad for everyone, even the ones not smoking. It smells horrible, and I think it is rude.

First of all, it's bad for everyone. It is not a secret that smoke causes lung cancer. Research shows that second hand smoke is just as harmful as smoking. It's one thing for smokers to ruin their own health, but why let them ruin everyone's around them? Not to mention, small children are exposed to this hazard. Smoke can really damage their lungs.

Also, smoking smells terrible. If you walk in somewhere that people have been smoking and walk back out, you will reek with the awful smell. It clings to clothes and hair. If smoking were not allowed in public, we wouldn't have to worry about smelling like a smoke stack if we happen to go into a convenient store or restaurant.

As you can see, smoking is bad and should be stopped. I hope you liked my essay.

Revise the introduction, ending, and word choice in the following story. Also, add details and try to make it more interesting.

If I could be anything for a day, I would be a bird.

First of all, I would fly to other countries. As I go to all of these countries, I would even learn their language. What would be cool is all of the new things I would see: art, buildings, even statues!

Next, I would fly to New York. I would stop by and sit on the Statue of Liberty. I'd look for the tallest sky scrapers around. Then I would go to the White House in Washington, DC and whistle the president a song of my own.

Last, I would fly over the ocean. I would catch the fish jumping in and out of the crystal clear water. What a sight it would be! On the way home, I would probably see huge boats and submarines.

As you can see, being a bird for a day would be great! I hope you like my paper about being a bird!

**Revise the introduction, ending, and word choice in the following story.
Also add suspense!**

What is more dangerous than eating or talking on a cell phone while driving? I have found having a reptile in the car to be extremely risky!

It all started when I was outside one day, and I caught a lizard. It was a bright green color. I caught it with my hand.

A few hours later, my mom said we were going to the store. I was still cupping that lizard in my hands. "What in the world am I going to do with this thing?" I thought aloud. Then I got a plan.

A few minutes later, my mom was on her way to the car. Quickly I hid the lizard under her seat. Then, we took off down the road. We had only gone about one mile when the lizard escaped from under the seat.

I'll never forget my mom's face. The lizard was sitting on her shoe. She looked down at her foot and spotted the green monster. Without hesitation, she stopped the car. Then she opened the door. She leaped out wailing her arms everywhere. My brother got out of the car and got the lizard and put it back in the jar. That memory will always be with me as long as I live.

**Revise the introduction, ending, and word choice in the following story.
Also add details and suspense!**

What if animals could talk? Wouldn't that be hilarious! If animals could talk, there are several questions I would like to ask some of them.

I would start with dogs. I would ask my dog if wagging his tail really meant he was happy. I would also ask him what kind of dog food he likes to eat the most. Oh, and one more thing. I would definitely have to ask him, "What's up with all the sniffing other dogs?"

Also, if animals could talk, I would have a few questions for cats. For starters, I would ask, "Why do you always look so sneaky?" I would ask cats some other stuff too.

In addition, I would want to question skunks. My number one question for them would be, "Do you smell bad to yourself, or do you think you smell good?" I've always wondered if their stink bothers them too or just humans.

Yes, animals talking would really be great. I could find out all kinds of new stuff.

Revise the following story by adding voice.

Sample 7

There is something incredibly unforgettable about looking fear right in its ugly face, especially when the fear you are looking at has extremely sharp teeth, ghastly breath, and a malicious snarl. As long as I am alive, I will be able to recount that day. I still do not know how I survived!

It all started when I was outside playing kickball with my sisters and my uncle's friend. We saw this monstrous dog chewing on her chain. It didn't bother us, so we kept playing.

I was about to roll the ball when my friend yelled, "That dog is right there!" I turned around and saw that the dog had gotten off of its chain. I threw the ball at the dog's face. Then I scurried like a jackrabbit.

All of a sudden, I looked back and saw that it was chasing me. The powerful legs of the beast were pumping so fast that I just knew it was going to catch me. I jumped over the bush and screamed, "Open the door!" I thought I wasn't going to make it.

I will never forget the time I got chased by that monster. I can still hear its bark and feel its hot breath as it snapped at my heel when I dove inside the door. Whew, talk about a close one!

**Give the following story an extreme makeover.
How much better can you make it?**

If children ruled the world, life would be good. Just imagine all the great things that would come about if kids were in charge.

First of all, if children ruled the world, school would only last for two hours a day, only to make sure we weren't all dumb, and there would absolutely be no homework. We could spend all of our time playing.

Also, if children ruled the world, there would be no vegetables grown. We would only eat junk food, candy, cookies and cake. Things like eggplant and squash would be for the adults, and the kids would make them eat it.

In addition, with children as the rulers of the world, the driving age would be ten. Cars would only cost \$20, so every kid could afford one. That would be so fun!

As you can see, if children ruled the world, life would be

**Give the following story an extreme makeover.
How much better can you make it?**

Dog is man's best friend. We've all heard that statement, and I think it is true. That is why if I could choose any pet for our classroom, I would choose a puppy.

First of all, I would bring a puppy to school because everyone likes them. Who can resist a puppy? Puppies get excited when they see you. They jump up and lick you in the face. They wag their tails to let you know that they are glad you're there. They are also as cute as buttons! Everyone is jubilant when they see a cute puppy face.

Also, having a puppy at school would be cool because we could teach it tricks. We could teach the puppy how to sit. We could teach the puppy how to fetch. We could even teach the puppy how to beg for treats. We would all be so proud when our class puppy learned these things.

**Give the following story an extreme makeover.
How much better can you make it?**

Once upon a time, in a land called Love, there lived a princess named Drema and her beloved pet ferret, Woogie.

Early one spring the prince of Love decided to have a ball so that he could meet a princess. As the story begins, Drema is preparing for this ball.

That morning, Drema got an invitation to the ball. She was so excited that she was invited! She ran inside so she could find something to wear. She then looked into her full-length mirror. She cried, "Oh, no! My hair looks like pine straw!" She knew she had to do something fast.

Immediately she ran outside and jumped in her car. She drove to the store to buy some beauty products. She bought a curling iron, a round brush, and a wig (just in case).

When she got home, she tried to curl her hair, but it burned her neck. Her pet ferret absconded when he heard her screams. Her luck was getting worse. When she tried the round brush, it got stuck in her hair. Woogie came back to try to help her pull it out, but it didn't work. She had to cut it out with a pair of scissors.

Finally, she put the wig on and instantly she became beautiful. Woogie got so excited he did a back flip. She went to the ball. She danced with the prince. She got married to him. She lived happily ever after.

**Give the following story an extreme makeover.
How much better can you make it?**

Let me tell you about a life altering moment that I will never forget.

It all started when, I was playing kickball outside with my family and friends. The ball was kicked across the street so I was forced to go get it.

That's when I saw "IT", a huge dog gnawing on her chain. Foam was coming out of her mouth. At the moment, I wasn't aware that something was about to happen.

It was my turn to roll, but then I heard a scream. I turned around and my friend Amy was running around frantically yelling, "OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD!" I thought she was going crazy until I saw the big dog heading our way. I threw the ball at the big dog's head and ran.

All of a sudden, I could feel heat on the back of my legs. I looked behind me and saw the dog. That's when I took my first instinct and headed toward the house, but to my disadvantage there were a bunch of bushes with briars in my way. I tried to jump over them, but my pants got caught. I twisted and turned, but I couldn't get loose. I WAS STUCK! This ALWAYS happens to ME! I felt like I was going to die!

Suddenly, the dog leaped in the air and landed right on top of me. I was face to face with a beast. The end. I hope you liked my story!

Give the following story an extreme makeover. How much better can you make it?

Billy was the new kid on the block. It was summer, and he had no idea what the youngsters did for fun. He didn't make friends easily, so he was excited when a group of neighborhood children wanted to play with him.

One suggested that they all check out an old abandoned house at the end of their long street. Billy was a little nervous but went with them anyway. Twenty minutes later, they finally reached the house. Grass and weeds had grown very high around the house, and the house needed a new coat of paint.

The group went inside, and they were surprised at how large the house was. They went in every room before heading upstairs. Once they got upstairs, something did not feel quite right. It felt like something or someone was in the house with them. Suddenly they heard a voice. They froze in fear. The voice repeated the question. The group ran downstairs. However, something grabbed Billy's leg

Suddenly, he was in a dark dudgeon. He couldn't see because dust was in his eyes. He started to scream, "Help! Help Me Please!" He was very scared being all alone in the dark dudgeon. But he wasn't all alone.

The monster appeared. He said, "Be still."

Billy said "Please Don't!"

Then the Monster said "I was going to say be still so I can get the dust out of your eyes."

Give the following story an extreme makeover. Sample 13
How much better can you make it?

There is nothing more fun than spending an afternoon at the mall.

Listen while I tell you what you can do at the mall without spending money.

First of all, you and a friend or group of friends can go on a scavenger hunt. Divide into two teams, and come up with a list of items to find in the mall. This is so much fun.

Another thing you can do in the mall is to sit and “people watch”. Just find a place to sit, and sit and watch people walk by. Try to guess what people do for a living, or make up elaborate stories about their lives.

Another thing to do in a mall is to go in a card shop and pick out cards to give each other. You don’t have to buy them. Just pick one out, give it to your friend, and say, “This is for you.” This is a lot of fun. Just be sure to put the cards back where they belong.

One last thing you can do is to go in dressing rooms, try on crazy outfits and take pictures. This is the most fun.

As you can see, there are plenty of fun things to do in the mall without spending any money.

Give the following story an extreme makeover. Sample 14
How much better can you make it?

Imagine going to school at 9:00 and leaving school at 2:00. That would be so good!

First of all, if we got out of school at 9:00, we would have more time to sleep. This would put most of us in a good mood, and our minds would be focused.

Also, if we could leave school one hour earlier, we would have enough time to do our homework. The teachers could also have more time to make plans.

In addition, this schedule would give students more time at home. Family time is important.

In conclusion, I think we should go to school late and come home early.