

Math

Kernel Essay Text Structures

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Compiled by Janette Wilcken (6th grade teacher, Maypearl, Texas)
from Gretchen Bernabei's kernel essay text structures.

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Math

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Alerting Reader to a Problem

Visual image
of problem

What will
happen in the
future

One plan

Attitude
change re-
quired

Imagine if...

Problem Awareness

Problem

Causes

Effects

Possible
solutions

Cubing an Object

Describe it

How it is used

What it is
like/unlike

How it can
change

What it can
cause

Introducing an object/invention

What you
know about it

What prob-
lem the thing
solves

How the thing
works

One problem
the thing
creates

Reasons it is a
good idea
anyway

Data/facts to
support the
purpose

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Curiosity: One thing you'd like to know about

I have some-
times wondered
about...

I know that...

I also know
that...

But I can't
figure out
how...

Even so, I will
always...

Alternative Solution

Problem

Conventional
solution

The problem
with that

Another
solution

Reflection of a lesson

What the
lesson is/was

Flashback to
the lesson

Description of
the person I
learned from

Lyrics or words you
remember that per-
son saying (on the
subject)

What I wish I
could find out
about it now

Curiosity

I have
wondered...

I figured out
that...

Then I also
figured out...

Last I figured
out...

This all means
that...

What you can
do about it...

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Seeking an Answer

I had this question...

I asked somebody for an answer

I asked somebody else to confirm the previous answer

I tested the answer for myself with this experience

What I learned from my experience

Evolution of a term

What this word meant to me when I was 4

When I was a little older

What the word means to me now

What the word might mean when I am ____ (pick an age)

Musing to an object (Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

Direct address and a question (something you want to know)

Description of one physical characteristic of the object

Description of another characteristic of the object, with a simile

An imperative to the object: a wish or a hope

Dilemma

Choice: Staying the same or changing

What would change mean?

Biggest disadvantage of change

Biggest disadvantage of staying the same

How change might make it worse

What happens if you just don't decide

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Sensory Associations

When I hear/
smell/see...

It reminds
me of...

Which makes
me feel...

Because...

Syllogism

If this is true...

And this is true...

Then this must be
true...

Elimination or confirmation

I've never
been sure if

But I've
always
suspected/
thought

Because once
I experienced

Which made
me think that

And I finally
realized

Explanation of a term

Dictionary-
like definition

Your personal
definition

What feeling
you get from
it

What others
make you
think

Example in
society today

Another
example
(optional)