



Effective Writing Practices

Practical skills to own, whenever
you write.

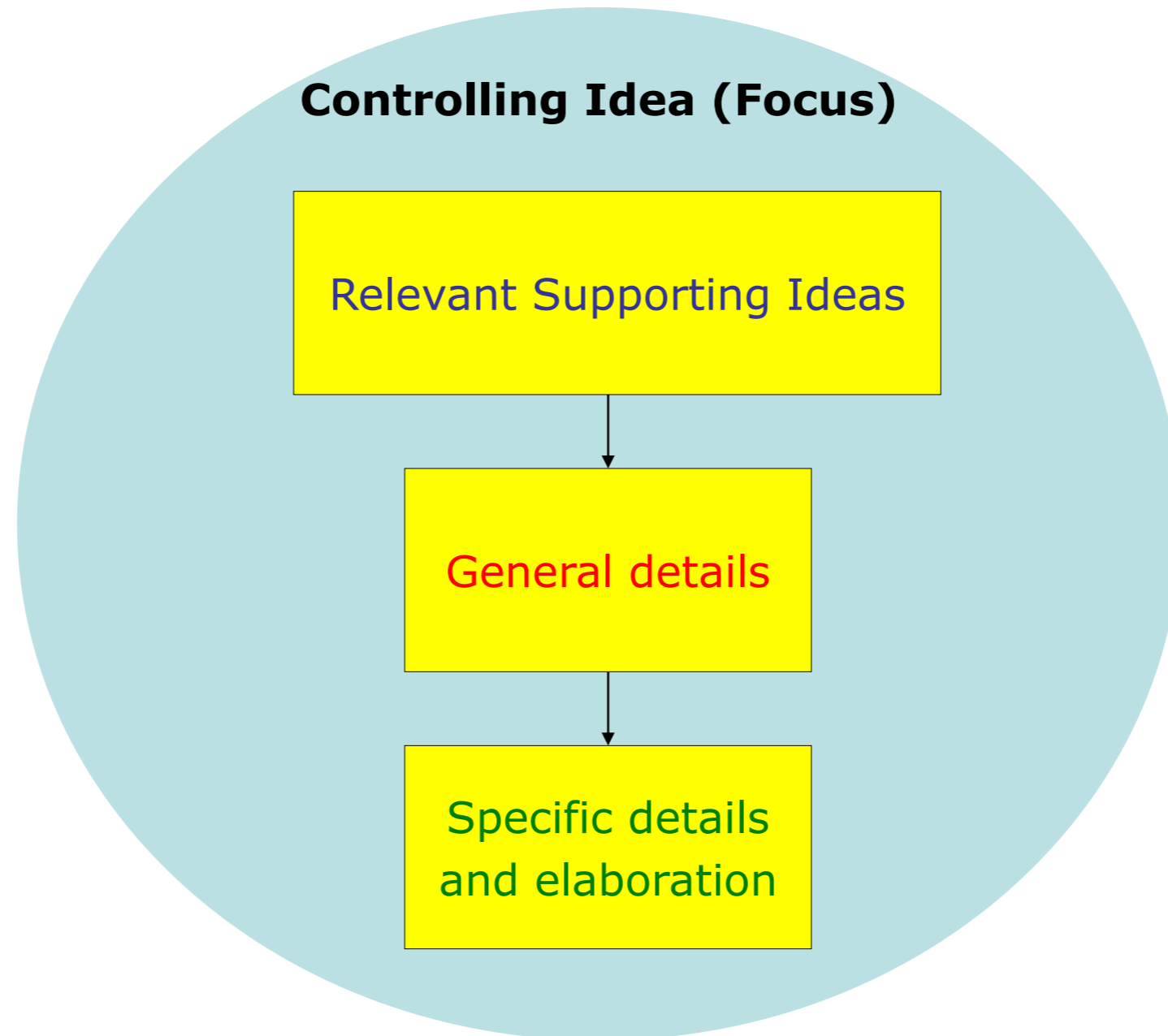
• Session Agenda

- 1) Boil the 4 rubrics down to a few essential skills
- 2) Keeping these skills in mind, do some practice scoring

Zeroing in: IDEAS



The Key Elements of the IDEAS domain



2010 Grade 5 Informational

Writing Situation

General Topic

You have been chosen by a company to make a new product. Your product could be a food, a toy, a game, or any other item you want.

Context for the Topic

Directions for Writing

Writer's task

Write a report for the company that describes your idea for a new product and explains how it can be used.

These elements, illustrated (Grade 5):

Controlling Idea:

My new product is called Simon
(response to 2010 Informational topic)

Supporting Idea

Major Details

Specific Details and Examples

Sample Body Paragraph

This toy is so awesome it comes in three modes. I bet your wondering what a robot named Simon can do. Well, it can do everything you do in the first mode. I call this mode "Simon Says." (get it?) In this mode Simon does everything you do. Wherever you go he goes. You lift your arm, he lifts his. You lift your leg, he lifts his. Even if you jump, he has springs in his shoes so he can jump.

Ideas: Score Point 1

Hye, my name is David Jones. I have just come on to one of the greatest game ever made. This game is called "The Iner Street Racer." On this game you race at midnight so 5.0 won't catch you. To make this game even funner it has different races on it. On this game you can customize your car.

Ideas: Score Point 2

The products that I am writing to the company are a drink maker so that you'll have a drink on a sunny day without in and out of the house.

The other product I thought of is a silent scooter for people who can't walk. It has a sensor for when your about to bump into something.

I also thought of a robot that can help you when your hurt. For an example, you had surgery on your leg of whatever, this product can give you food and something to drink.

My next product is a safe with a D.N.A. scanner so nobody will get your money.

Ideas: Score Point 3

If I worked for a company my new product would be a game. It would be called a Playstation 4 2010 special edition.

It is a computer, DVD player, 5 disc changer, 5 controllers. It is portable and has wireless controllers and cords. You can put on a helmet and use a steering wheel to play the game. That is wireless too. It comes with 5 of those too.

Games come with it too. It comes with three games. There are also lots of different games you can buy. There are sports games. There are action games. There are also music games.

It has surround sound and bass to it. It is so loud that it might bust your eardrums.

It has cool graphics. When you play the game it looks so real.

It has a special controller that you can use all the time. It is called the mean machine 6,000. It is the best controller that you can use. It has vibration on it too. It is computerized. When it gets to the hard part you can kick some video game butt with the ultra mean machine 6,000. It is the best controller that anybody could use.

That would be the best product I would make for the whole world to see.

Ideas: Score Point 4

If your like me, I never get good sleep with a bed filled with springs. I wake up two times at night if I'm lucky. Well that's going to change with my bed called the dreamer bed.

Here's how it works. It is filled with tiney beads so it will form your every position. Also if you don't want it just filled with beads, you can blow air in there, too. To fill it with air you get a pump that plugs into a small hole on the side that lets air in and out, but does not let the beads out. If you put air into the bed and you decide you don't want the air in it, then pull the plug and the air will come out.

If your wondering what it is covered with and how it is held together, it is a soft material called cotton. We thread the cotton into thick string that is very strong. Don't worry it won't come apart.

You can take it anywhere you want. If you going on a trip like going camping and you don't want to sleep on the hard ground, then bring the dreamer bed with you! The dreamer bed is made so the string can bend easily.

You can get the dreamer bed in any colors you want. You can even put two, three, or four different colors. Many people think nothing is perfect, but the dreamer bed is perfect! You can never get sick of the dreamer bed.

Ideas: Score Point 5

Imagination Inc, I introduce to you the toy that's sweeping kidsoff their feet and making them play to the Robotic Simon's beat. Say hello to fun in the future, it's Robotic Simon.

This toy is so awesome it comes in three modes. I bet your wondering what a robot named Simon can do. Well, it can do everything you do in the first mode. I call this mode "Simon Says." (get it?) In this mode Simon does everything you do. Wherever you go he goes. You lift your arm, he lifts his. You lift your leg, he lifts his. Even if you jump, he has springs in his shoes so he can jump. Lets say you get tired of Simon being your shadow. Then break out the controller to control Simon. With this controller you can make Simon do a weird dance. Maybe you can make him spin or jump. Now Simon wants to be the boss. So I call his third mode the "Bossy mode." In this mode Simon goes wherever he wants. If he wants to walk he walks. Maybe he wants to dance then he'll dance. Just for the fun of it he jumps then he will jump.

Now that I told you about Simon it's time to introduce Simorina. Simorina is exactly like Simon just acts like him in a more female way.

Okay now that you have played with Simon/Simorina with all you energy and you want to put him/her away. The only problem is you can't find the off switch. All you do is clap your hands and he/she turns off. Make sure she/he is not on "Simon Says" mode or he'll/she'll just clap.

Let's say a child under three tries to eat Simon/Simorina. This toy sees the danger with its eyes and plays a lullaby. The baby puts Simon/Simorina down and goes to sleep.

This toy is completely safe. This a toy that kids in the future will play with all day. Out motto is "Make every kids imagination run free" and that's exactly what Simon/Simorina is going to do.

10-minute IDEAS exercise

1: GEN/SPEC

Games come with it too. There are also lots of different games you can buy.

→ What kinds of games can you buy for it?

General Details

- There are sports games.
- There are action games.
- There are music games.

Specific Details

- Madden 2011 is the best sports game you can get.
- You have to try Mario Kart for the exciting action.
- Guitar Hero will make you feel like a real rock star.



10-minute IDEAS exercise

2: ELABORATE

Games come with it too. There are also lots of different games you can buy. There are sports games. Madden 2011 is the best sports game you can get.

→ Okay, good! Now tell the reader why Madden 2011 is the best sports game you can get. Do this in 1-2 sentences.

For example...

The graphics are so awesome that you think you are watching a real football game. Plus, it has real play-by-play commentary from John Madden. He tells you if you called the right play or not.

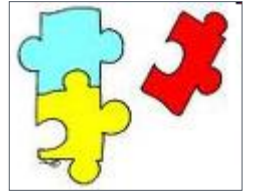


Zeroing in: Organization

How do I get there?



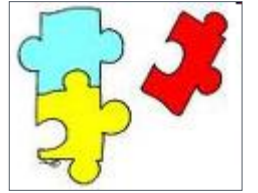
Connecting parts of the BIG Picture



Grouping: occurs when the writer uses relevant details to elaborate particular supporting ideas.

The color, shape, size and location of quartz can be different. You can find quartz in grey, white, purple, brown and pink. Purple quartz is called amethyst. (All details in the paragraph relate to the physical characteristics of quartz.)

Connecting parts of the BIG Picture



- Sequencing (→): the logic the writer uses to arrange sentences in a paragraph.

Okay now that you have played with Simon/Simorina with all you energy and you want to put him/her away. → The only problem is you can't find the off switch. → All you do is clap your hands and he/she turns off. → Make sure she/he is not on "Simon Says" mode or he'll/she'll just clap.

Sequencing: Order Matters

Here's what you have so far:

Games come with it too. It comes with three games. There are also lots of different games you can buy...

...Like what? → Madden 2011 is the best sports game you can get.

Good! Next, explain why. → The graphics are so awesome that you think you are watching a real football game. Plus, it has real play-by-play commentary from John Madden. He tells you if you called the right play or not.

Sequencing: Order Matters

Putting it all together...

Games come with it too. → It comes with three games. There are also lots of different games you can buy. → Madden 2011 is the best sports game you can get. → The graphics are so awesome that you think you are watching a real football game. Plus, it has real play-by-play commentary from John Madden. He tells you if you called the right play or not.

Organization: Score Point 3

Brief
intro

If I worked for a company my new product would be a game. It would be called a Playstation 4 2010 special edition.

It is a computer, DVD player, 5 disc changer, 5 controllers. It is portable and has wireless controllers and cords. You can put on a helmet and use a steering wheel to play the game. → That is wireless too. It comes with 5 of those too.

Sequencing
(→)

Games come with it too. → It comes with three games. There are also lots of different games you can buy. → There are sports games. There are action games. There are also adventure games. → You can play **these** for hours and have fun.

Grouping

It has surround sound and bass to it. → It is so loud that it might bust your eardrums.

It has cool graphics. → When you play the game it looks so real.

Transitions

It has a special controller that you can use all the time. → **It** is called the mean machine 6,000. It is the best controller that you can use. It has vibration on it too. It is computerized. When it gets to the hard part you can kick some video game butt with the ultra mean machine 6,000. It is the best controller that anybody could use.

Brief
conclusion

That would be the best product I would make for the whole world to see.

There is clear grouping and generally clear sequencing, but transitions are not varied. The intro and conclusion are brief.

Organization: Score Point 4

Intro
sets
stage

If your like me, I never get good sleep with a bed filled with springs. → I wake up two times at night if I'm lucky. → Well **that's** going to change with my bed called the dreamer bed.

Sequencing
(→)

Here's how it works. → It is filled with tiney beads so it will form your every position. Also if you don't want it just filled with beads, you can blow air in there, too. → **To fill it with air** you get a pump that plugs into a small hole on the side that lets air in and out, but does not let the beads out. If you put air into the bed and you decide you don't want the air in it, then pull the plug and the air will come out.

Grouping

If your wondering what it is covered with and how it is held together, it is a soft material called cotton. → We thread the cotton into thick string that is very strong. → **Don't worry** it won't come apart.

Transitions

You can take it anywhere you want. → If your going on a trip like going camping and you don't want to sleep on the hard ground, then bring the dreamer bed with you! The dreamer bed is made so the string can bend easily.

Conclusion:
Reminder of the
product's benefits

You can get the dreamer bed in any colors you want. You can even put two, three, or four different colors. Many people think nothing is perfect, but the dreamer bed is perfect! You can never get sick of the dreamer bed.

This one has more consistent sequencing and more effective transitions than the previous example.

Organization: Score Point 5

Catchy
Intro sets
stage

Imagination Inc, I introduce to you the toy that's sweeping kidsoff their feet and making them play to the Robotic Simon's beat. → Say hello to fun in the future, it's Robotic Simon.

Sequencing
(→)

This toy is so awesome it comes in three modes. I bet your wondering what a robot named Simon can do. → Well, it can do everything you do in the first mode. → I call this mode "Simon Says." (get it?) → In this mode Simon does everything you do. → Wherever you go he goes. You lift your arm, he lifts his. You lift your leg, he lifts his. Even if you jump, he has springs in his shoes so he can jump. Lets say you get tired of Simon being your shadow. → Then break out the controller to control Simon. → With this controller you can make Simon do a weird dance. Maybe you can make him spin or jump. Now Simon wants to be the boss. → So I call his third mode the "Bossy mode." → In this mode Simon goes wherever he wants. → If he wants to walk he walks. Maybe he wants to dance then he'll dance. Just for the fun of it he jumps then he will jump.

Grouping

Now that I told you about Simon it's time to introduce Simorina. → Simorina is exactly like Simon just acts like him in a more female way.

Transitions

Okay now that you have played with Simon/Simorina with all you energy and you want to put him/her away. → The only problem is you can't find the off switch. → All you do is clap your hands and he/she turns off. → Make sure she/he is not on "Simon Says" mode or he'll/she'll just clap.

Let's say a child under three tries to eat Simon/Simorina. → This toy sees the danger with its eyes and plays a lullaby. → The baby puts Simon/Simorina down and goes to sleep.

Compelling
statement
in
conclusion

This toy is completely safe. This a toy that kids in the future will play with all day. Out motto is "Make every kids imagination run free" and that's exactly what Simon/Simorina is going to do.

The difference here: a variety of effective transitions link all parts of the response.

Zeroing in: Style



- Effective word choice

Simple Word Choice

- Stuff



- Thing

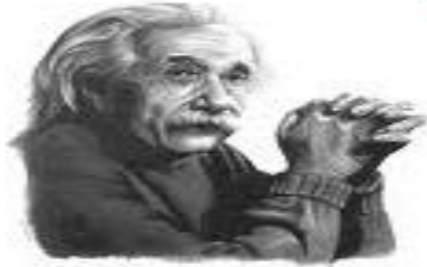


- A lot



More Effective Word Choice

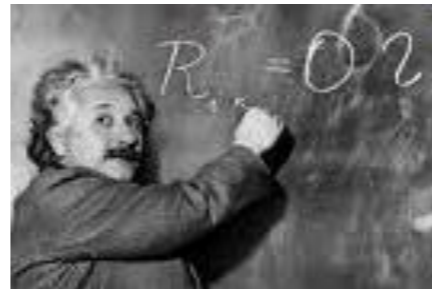
- Descriptive



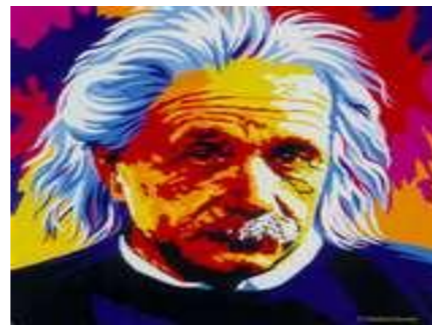
- Figurative



- Technical



- Sensory Details



Descriptive Word Choice



→ Gives the reader a much clearer sense of your ideas

Simple

**The
Playstation 4
comes with
good games.**

Descriptive

**The Playstation 4
comes with
sports, action, and
adventure games
that will keep you
interested for
years.**

Figurative Word Choice



→ **Allows you to emphasize a point in a humorous way.**

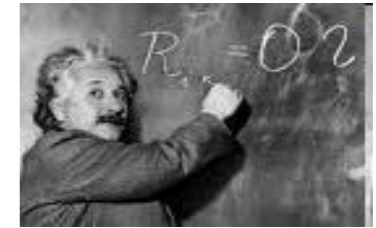
Simple

When it gets to the hard part, this controller will help you.

Figurative

When it gets to the hard part, you can **kick some serious video game butt** with the ultra mean machine 6,000.

Technical Word Choice



→ **Works well in informational writing.**

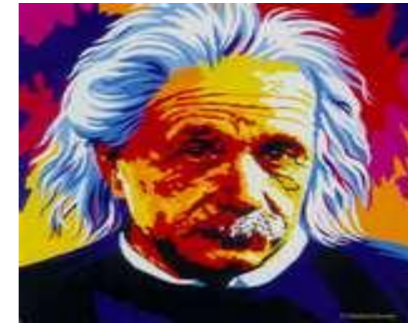
Simple

**It has good
sound too.**

Technical

It has surround
sound and bass
to it.

Sensory Details



→ **Appeal to the reader's senses.**

Simple

When I was walking I found some quartz.

Sensory Details

Imagine you are climbing Georgia's mountains. You find a big rock. Then you hit it with a hammer. Ta da! Something **shiny** and **sparkly** is in it.

Style: Score Point 3

If I worked for a company my new product would be a game. It would be called a Playstation 4 2010 **special edition**.

It is a computer, DVD player, and 5 disc changer, with 5 controllers. It is **portable** and has **wireless controllers** and cords. You can put on a helmet and use a steering wheel to play the game. That is wireless **too**. It comes with 5 of those **too**.

Games come with it **too**. It comes with three games. There are also **lots** of different games you can buy. There are sports **games**. There are action **games**. There are also adventure **games**. You can play these and have **hours of fun**.

It has **surround sound** and **bass** to it. It is so loud that it might **bust your eardrums**.

It has **life-like** graphics. When you play the game it looks so real.

It has a special controller that you can use all the time. It is called the **mean machine 6,000**. It is the best controller that you can use. It has **vibration** on it too. It is computerized. When it gets to the hard part you can **kick some video game butt** with the ultra mean machine 6,000. It is the best controller that anybody could use.

That would be the best product I would make for the whole world to see.

- *There are some lapses into **simple, repetitive** word choice, but more often than not, word choice is **engaging**.*

Simple,
repetitive
word
choice

More
engaging
word
choice

Style: Score Point 4

If your like me, I never get good sleep with a bed filled with springs. I wake up two times at night if I'm lucky. Well that's going to change with my bed called the dreamer bed.

Here's how it works. It is filled with tiney beads so it will form to your every position. Also if you don't want it just filled with beads, you can blow air in there, too. To fill it with air you get a pump that plugs into a small hole on the side that lets air in and out, but does not let the beads out. If you put air into the bed and you decide you don't want the air in it, then pull the plug and the air will come out.

If your wondering what it is covered with and how it is held together, it is a soft material called cotton. We thread the cotton into thick string that is very strong. Don't worry it won't come apart.

You can take it anywhere you want. If your going on a trip like going camping and you don't want to sleep on the hard ground, then bring the dreamer bed with you! The dreamer bed is made so the string can bend easily.

You can get the dreamer bed in any colors you want. You can even put two, three, or four different colors. Many people think nothing is perfect, but the dreamer bed is perfect! You can never get sick of the dreamer bed.

- *Word choice is consistently engaging.*

Engaging
word
choice

Less
effective
control
of
language

Style: Score Point 5

Imagination Inc, I introduce to you the toy that's sweeping kids off their feet and making them play to the Robotic Simon's beat. Say hello to fun in the future, it's Robotic Simon.

This toy is so awesome it comes in three modes. I bet your wondering what a robot named Simon can do. Well, it can do everything you do in the first mode. I call this mode "Simon Says." (get it?) In this mode Simon does everything you do. Wherever you go he goes. You lift your arm, he lifts his. You lift your leg, he lifts his. Even if you jump, he has springs in his shoes so he can jump. Lets say you get tired of Simon being your shadow. Then break out the controller to control Simon. With this controller you can make Simon do a weird dance. Maybe you can make him spin or jump. Now Simon wants to be the boss. So I call his third mode the "Bossy mode." In this mode Simon goes wherever he wants. If he wants to walk he walks. Maybe he wants to dance then he'll dance. Just for the fun of it he jumps.

Now that I told you about Simon it's time to introduce Simorina. Simorina is exactly like Simon just acts like him in a more feminine way.

Okay now that you have played with Simon/Simorina with all your energy you want to put him/her away. The only problem is you can't find the off switch. All you do is clap your hands and he/she turns off. Make sure she/he is not on "Simon Says" mode or he'll/she'll just clap.

Let's say a child under three tries to eat Simon/Simorina. This toy sees the danger with its eyes and plays a lullaby. The baby puts Simon/Simorina down and goes to sleep.

This toy is completely safe. This a toy that kids in the future will play with all day. Out motto is "Make every kids imagination run free" and that's exactly what Simon/Simorina is going to do.

- *The writer uses a variety of carefully crafted phrases to engage the audience. Audience awareness is strong (e.g., "Now that I told you").*

Engaging
word
choice

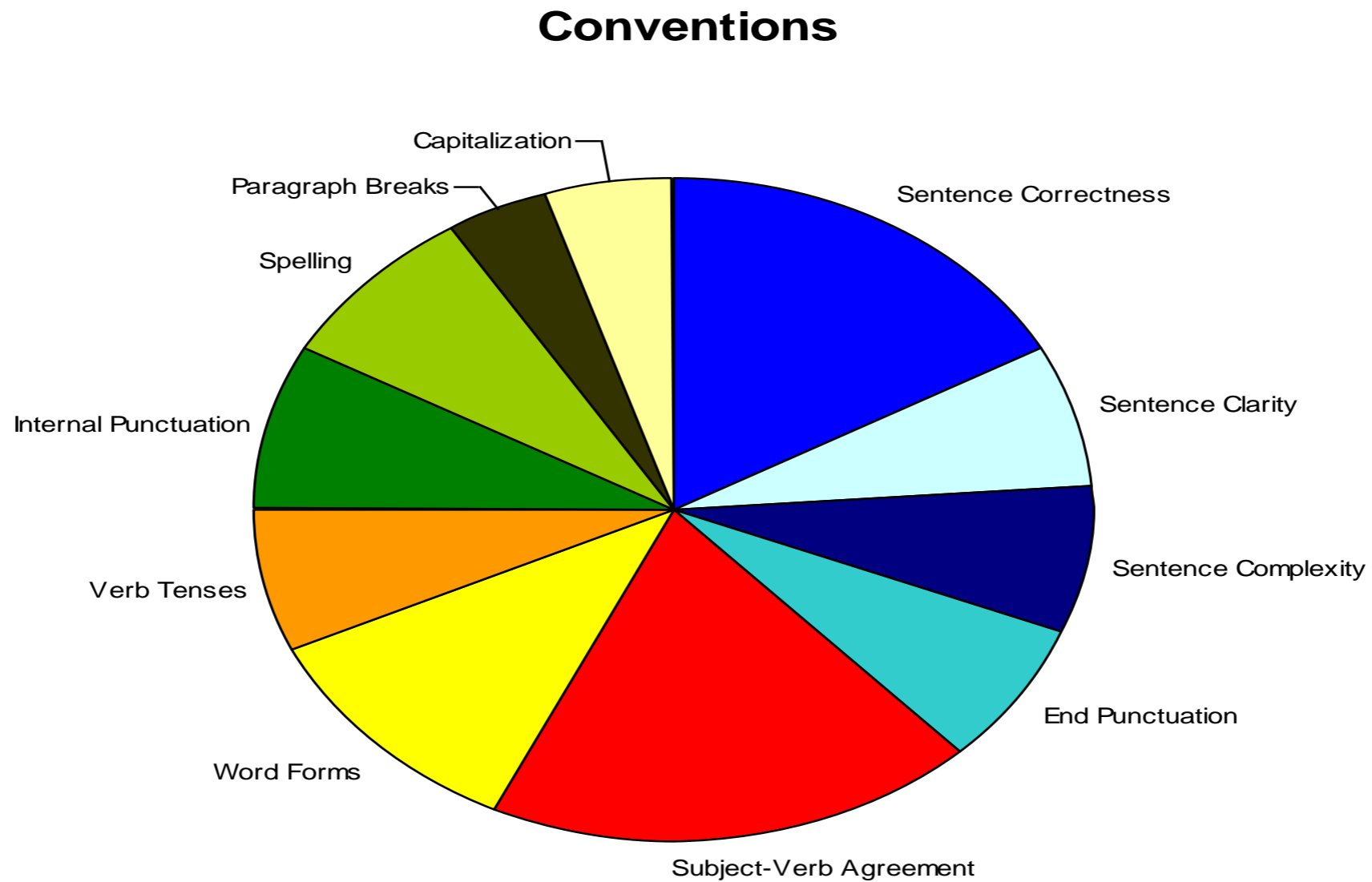
Less
effective
control
of
language

Zeroing in: Conventions

Identify/Eliminate Major Editing Errors:

- Comma splice
- Fused sentence
 - Fragment
- Agreement errors

Conventions Breakdown



Major Editing Errors

- Comma splice
- Fused sentence
 - Fragment
- Agreement errors

Comma Splice



→ Happens when you try to join two sentences with a comma.

Fault: It has surround sound and bass to it, it is so loud that it might bust your eardrums.

Fix 1: It has surround sound and bass to it. It is so loud that it might burst your eardrums.

Fix 2: It has surround sound a bass to it; it is so loud that it might burst your eardrums.

Fused Sentence



→ Happens when you try to join two sentences without any punctuation.

Fault: It is the best controller that you can use
it has vibration on it too.

Fix 1: It is the best controller that you can use.
It has vibration on it too.

Fix 2: It is the best controller that you can use;
it has vibration on it too.

Fix 3: It is the best controller that you can use,
and it has vibration on it too.

Fragment



→ Happens when a sentence is missing a subject or predicate.

Fault: The Playstation 4 comes with many games.
Lots of excitement.

Fix: The Playstation 4 comes with many games, so kids will enjoy lots of excitement.

Exception—functional fragment: The Playstation 4 has many appropriate games that parents can feel good about. **Games with no violence. No blood and gore.** There are actually many games that are educational.

Usage Errors



Fault 1—Subject/Verb Disagreement: Kids already has a Playstation 3.

Fix: Kids already have a Playstation 3.

Fault 2—Pronoun/Antecedent Disagreement (often related to number): If a student wants to play games at school, now they can with my new PSP.

Fix: If a student wants to play games at school, now he or she can with my new PSP.

Fault 3—Incorrect Word Forms: The Playstation 4 comes with 2 game.

Fix: The Playstation 4 comes with 2 games.

Conventions: Score Point 1

Major
Editing
Errors

Hye, my name is David Jones. I have just come on to one of the greatest **game** ever made. This game is called "The Iner Street Racer." On this game you race at midnight so 5.0 won't catch you. To make this game even funner it has different races on it. On this game you can customize your car.

The response is too brief to receive more than a 1 in Conventions.

Conventions: Score Point 2

Major Editing Errors

The **products** that I am writing to the company is a drink maker so that you'll have a drink when you want a drink.

The other product I thought of is a scooter for people who can't walk. It has a sensor for when **your** about to bump into something.

I also thought of a robot that can help you when you don't feel good. **For an example, you fell or whatever, this product can give you food and something to drink.**

My next product is a safe, nobody will get your money. Its not good when you lose your money. You can put your money in it.

- *There is a mix of control here—about as many correct examples as incorrect.*

Conventions: Score Point 3

If I worked for a company my new product would be a game. It would be called a Playstation 4 2010 special edition.

It is a computer, DVD player, and 5 disc changer, with 5 controllers. It is portable and has wireless controllers and cords. You can put on a helmet and use a steering wheel to play the game. That is wireless **to**. It comes with 5 of those too.

Games come with it too. It comes with three games. There are also lots of different **game** you can buy. There are sports games. There are action games. There are also adventure games. You can play these and have hours of fun.

Major Editing Errors

It has surround sound and bass to it, it is so loud that it might bust your eardrums.

It has life-like graphics. When you play the game it looks so real.

It has a special controller that you can use all the time. It is called the mean machine 6,000. **It is the best controller that you can use it has vibration on it too.** It is computerized. When it gets to the hard part you can kick some video game butt with the ultra mean machine 6,000. It is the best controller that anybody could use.

That would be the best product I would make for the **hole** world to see.

- *There are some sentence, usage, and mechanics errors, but the writer demonstrates control in the majority of the response. Many of the sentences are simple.*

Conventions: Score Point 4

If **your** like me, **I** never get good sleep with a bed filled with springs. I wake up two times at night if I'm lucky. Well that's going to change with my bed called the dreamer bed.

Here's how it works. It is filled with tiny beads so it will form to your every position. Also if you don't want it just filled with beads, you can blow air in there, too. To fill it with air you get a pump that plugs into a small hole on the side that lets air in and out, but does not let the beads out. If you put air into the bed and you decide you don't want the air in it, then pull the plug and the air will come out.

If your wondering what it is covered with and how it is held together, it is a soft material called cotton. We thread the cotton into thick string that is very strong. **Don't worry it won't come apart.**

You can take it anywhere you want. If your going on a trip like going camping and you don't want to sleep on the hard ground, then bring the dreamer bed with you! The dreamer bed is made so the string can bend easily.

You can get the dreamer bed in any colors you want. You can even get a pattern of two, three, or four different colors. Many people think nothing is perfect, but the dreamer bed is perfect! You can never get sick of the dreamer bed.

Major Editing Errors

- *There is consistent control demonstrated in Conventions, with few major editing errors.*

Conventions: Score Point 5

Imagination Inc, I introduce to you the toy that's sweeping kids off their feet and making them play to the Robotic Simon's beat. Say hello to fun in the future; it's Robotic Simon.

This toy is so awesome it comes in three modes. I bet **your** wondering what a robot named Simon can do. Well, it can do everything you do in the first mode. I call this mode "Simon Says." (get it?) In this mode Simon does everything you do. Wherever you go he goes. If you lift your arm, he lifts his. If you lift your leg, he lifts his. Even if you jump, he has springs in his shoes so he can jump. **Lets** say you get tired of Simon being your shadow. Then break out the controller to control Simon. With this controller you can make Simon do a weird dance. Maybe you can make him spin or jump. Now Simon wants to be the boss. So I call his third mode the "Bossy mode." In this mode Simon goes wherever he wants. If he wants to walk he walks. Maybe he wants to dance, so then he'll dance. Just for the fun of it he jumps.

Now that I told you about Simon it's time to introduce Simorina. Simorina is exactly like Simon, but she just acts like him in a more feminine way.

Okay now that you have played with Simon/Simorina with all your energy you want to put him/her away. The only problem is you can't find the off switch. All you do is clap your hands and he/she turns off. Make sure she/he is not on "Simon Says" mode or he'll/she'll just clap.

Let's say a child under three tries to eat Simon/Simorina. This toy sees the danger with its eyes and plays a lullaby. The baby puts Simon/Simorina down and goes to sleep.

This toy is completely safe. This a toy that kids in the future will play with all day. Out motto is "Make every kids imagination run free" and that's exactly what Simon/Simorina is going to do.

Major Editing Errors

- *The writer demonstrates a full command in Conventions, with very few major editing errors.*