Cut and Paste Activities

LESSON 14

Teacher Background

After students are familiar with the very similar organizational frameworks of informational and opinion writing, they are ready for the following CUT AND PASTE ORGANIZATION activities.

The class is given a TOPIC and a number of broad yet distinct main idea or main reason sentences. They are also given a collection of relevant detail sentences. Students must group detail sentences beneath the corresponding main idea/main reason sentence.

LESSON AT A GLANCE:

Whole Class Activity

- *Cut introduction, conclusion and main idea sentences and affix each to a poster board.*
- *Distribute detail strips – one per student.*
- *Students arrange details with related main ideas, glue in place.*

Objective

Students, as a class and then, individually, will arrange information in a logical fashion, matching details with related main ideas, based on the **INFORMATIONAL PILLAR FRAMEWORK**.

Procedure

(Directions provided for the Volcanoes example. The procedure remains consistent for all Cut and Paste examples.)

1. Reproduce one set of the Volcanoes Cut and Paste Main Idea sheets.
2. Before class, cut off the strips containing the Introduction paragraph, three Main Idea sentence strips and the Conclusion paragraph.
3. Glue each strip (5 in all: intro, 3 main ideas, conclusion) to the top of a large piece of construction paper. These will represent each section of the pillar. Post them sequentially, one beneath the other.
4. Cut detail sentences into strips along dotted lines and set aside.
5. Review the **INFORMATIONAL PILLAR**. Explain to the class that, together, you will be reconstructing an informational piece of writing. Share the **TOPIC**, as well as the introduction, main ideas and conclusion. Their job will be to study the detail sentences and decide where they belong.
6. Distribute the detail sentence strips to the children so that everyone has at least one. Have them read it, and think about which main idea or reason it supports or illustrates.
7. Call children into groups based on the main idea sentences that their detail supports. (You will have three groups.) Give them their corresponding construction paper "paragraphs" with their main idea pasted across the top. Their job will be to organize the detail sentences and glue them in place. Check them as they work.
8. Finally, put the entire piece together and read it aloud. Proceed in similar fashion with the other Cut and Paste selections.
9. As students reconstruct these informational pieces, valuable conversations will take place regarding the logical linking of one idea to the next. For example, sentences that begin with transitional phrases such as "Also" or "Not only that" cannot logically appear as the first detail sentence in a paragraph. Each cut and paste piece has been reconstructed here for your use. This is not to suggest, however, that it is the only logical arrangement. It is intended only as a guide.

EXTENSION: Laminate your detail sentence strips and main idea posters and use them in a learning station where children can sort the details and compile paragraphs individually or as part of small cooperative learning groups.

Sample Cut and Paste Compilation

VOLCANOES

Imagine seeing a river of fiery red lava flowing down a mountainside. That is what the eruption of a volcano can look like. Volcanoes are landforms where molten rock, also known as lava, breaks through the surface of the earth. Volcanoes can be found around the world, under the ocean and even on other planets.

Around the world there is much volcanic activity. Mauna Loa, the largest volcano on earth, is in Hawaii. This Hawaiian volcano towers 13,000 feet in the air. There are many volcanoes in Alaska and along the Pacific coast of the United States. There are also more than 200 volcanoes in Canada, but none have erupted since 1904. In the U.S., however, Mount St. Helen in the state of Washington erupted in 1980. The Mt. St. Helen blast threw lava, ash, steam and water 12 miles into the air. It destroyed nearby property and roads in Washington towns. Geologists, scientists who study the earth, keep an eye on volcanic activity worldwide so they can predict when an eruption will occur.

There are also volcanoes on the ocean floor. Some are in shallow water and blast lava, steam and rock above the surface of the water. Others lie so deep that their eruption does not cause even a ripple on the surface of the ocean. There are volcanoes in all the world's oceans, but most are in the Pacific. The warm waters around oceanic volcanoes are home to giant clams and other interesting sea life. Islands are born when the lava from oceanic volcanoes cools, hardens and builds up. The Hawaiian Islands were formed from an underwater volcano. More recently, a new island has emerged near Japan as a result of underwater eruptions. Volcanic eruptions in the sea can trigger tsunamis, which are huge waves that crash ashore.

It may be hard to believe, but there are even volcanoes on other planets! Venus is known for its many volcanoes, but we do not know if any are still active. Some of the volcanoes on Venus have flat tops and are called Pancake Domes. On Mars there is a volcano that measures 373 miles wide and 13 miles high. This Martian volcano is much bigger than any volcano on Earth! One of Jupiter's moons is covered with volcanoes. They are constantly erupting and changing the landscape of the moon. Some geologists believe that a volcano exploded on the planet Mercury billions of years ago. On one of Saturn's moons, a volcano shot streams of steamy water through a crust of solid ice. There is probably much more to learn about volcanoes on other planets.

To see a volcanic eruption would be a risky, but exciting, experience. Whether on land, deep under the sea or on a distant planet, volcanoes show us the awesome power of nature.

Sample Cut and Paste Compilation

GYM CLASS

Most second and third graders have gym class two or three times a week. For many of us, it is our favorite class. We warm up, learn about different sports, and play games that keep us fit.

First, it's important to stretch our legs, our arms, and shoulders. Stretching is important because you are less likely to get hurt while playing sports if you stretch out first. As part of our warm-up, we also do exercises to help us build muscles. Warming up with sit-ups makes your stomach strong. Starting with push-ups will give you powerful arms and shoulders. When the weather is good, we go outside and run around the track to warm up. When it is raining or snowing, we warm-up and stretch in the gym. If you get tired during a warm-up run, you can walk. The only rule during warm-up is to keep moving.

Once warmed up, you are ready for sports. In the fall, we usually go outside and play soccer. We wear shin guards and everybody gets a chance to be the goalie. In the spring, we play baseball. Some people are great hitters. Others are better at catching and throwing the ball. In the winter, we focus on basketball. We learn how to dribble the ball and we practice shooting baskets. Sports are a good way to learn how to work as a team. You also learn not to be a sore loser.

For a treat, the gym teacher sometimes lets us play games, like Capture the Flag. But everybody's favorite game is Animal Moves. To play, you pick an animal and everybody tries to move like that creature would. For example, if you picked a frog, you would have to use your hands to push yourself up from the floor as you hop into the air. The elephant walk is also fun. Clasp your hands together in front of you and pretend it's a trunk. Walk with heavy steps as you swing your make believe trunk from side to side. We usually play Animal Moves to music. In this game, when the music stops, we freeze. Then, as the game continues, we choose the next animal.

Whether you're running, stretching, playing sports or enjoying games, you will do well in gym class just as long as you keep moving. Being active helps us stay healthy - and it is fun.

Sample Cut and Paste Compilations

PENGUINS

Have you ever seen a penguin? Many of us are charmed by these funny looking birds. You can recognize these flightless swimmers and divers by their unique appearance. You might see them waddling in large community groups.

If you saw a penguin, would you recognize it? The largest of all is the Emperor Penguin. This type of penguin can be found in Antarctica. Standing about four feet tall, these amazing birds can survive the coldest weather on earth. They have four layers of feathers to keep them warm. Emperor Penguins have glossy black and pure white feathers and orange markings around their beaks. King Penguins look much the same but are smaller. Also in Antarctica, you will find the Chinstrap Penguin. This unique bird has a fine black line, which looks like a chin strap, stretching from one cheek to the other. The smallest type of penguin lives in Australia and is only about 14 inches tall.

Penguins cannot fly but they get around in other ways. Instead of wings, they have flippers so they are terrific swimmers. Some can swim up to 20 miles per hour. Some penguins can dive to great depths and stay underwater for as long as twenty minutes. As they swim they can see clearly underwater and are able to spot prey even in cloudy water. With their big feet and short legs, Penguins move slowly on land. However, they can waddle along for long distances. They can move by hopping on both feet too. To save energy, they can even slide along ice on their bellies at great speeds.

It is easy to imagine that penguins are friendly because they live in such large groups. They always feed, swim and nest together. Sometimes thousands of them gather in one place. They huddle to stay warm. Penguins share food. They alert each other when danger is near. These cute birds even seem to play together. They speak to each other with hissing, squawking and clicking sounds. Mother and father penguins both care for their young. In many ways, penguins help one another survive in icy conditions.

From the smallest to the tallest, penguins are amazing animals. Clumsy on land, but graceful in the water, they live in large groups and seem to enjoy each other's company.

Cut and Paste Main Idea Strips

VOLCANOES

Introduction: Imagine seeing a river of fiery red lava flowing down a mountainside. That is what the eruption of a volcano can look like. Volcanoes are landforms where molten rock, also known as lava, breaks through the surface of the Earth. Volcanoes can be found around the world, under the ocean and even on other planets.

MAIN IDEA #1:
Around the world there is much volcanic activity.

MAIN IDEA #2:
There are also volcanoes on the ocean floor.

MAIN IDEA #3:
It may be hard to believe, but there are even volcanoes on other planets!

Conclusion: To see a volcanic eruption would be a risky, but exciting, experience. Whether on land, deep under the sea or on a distant planet, volcanoes show us the awesome power of nature.

VOLCANOES

Mauna Loa, the largest volcano on earth, is in Hawaii.

This Hawaiian volcano towers 13,000 feet in the air.

There are many volcanoes in Alaska and along the Pacific coast of the United States.

There are also more than 200 volcanoes in Canada, but none have erupted since 1904.

In the U.S., however, Mount St. Helens in the state of Washington erupted in 1980.

The Mt. St. Helens blast threw lava, ash, steam and water 12 miles into the air.

It destroyed nearby property and roads in Washington towns.

Geologists, scientists who study the earth, keep an eye on volcanic activity worldwide so they can predict when one will erupt.

Some are in shallow water and blast lava, steam and rock above the surface of the water.

Others lie at such great depths that their eruption does not cause even a ripple on the surface of the ocean.

There are volcanoes in all the world's oceans, but most are in the Pacific.

The warm waters around oceanic volcanoes are home to giant clams and other interesting sea life.

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Detail Sentences

Islands are born when the lava from oceanic volcanoes cools, hardens and builds up.

The Hawaiian Islands were formed from an underwater volcano.

More recently, a new island has emerged near Japan as a result of underwater eruptions.

Volcanic eruptions in the sea can trigger tsunamis, which are huge waves that crash ashore.

Venus is known for its many volcanoes, but we do not know if any are still active.

Some of the volcanoes on Venus have flat tops and are called Pancake Domes.

On Mars there is a volcano that measures 373 miles wide and 13 miles high.

This Martian volcano is much bigger than any volcano on Earth!

One of Jupiter's moons is covered with volcanoes.

They are constantly changing the landscape of the moon.

Some geologists believe that a volcano exploded on the planet Mercury billions of years ago.

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Cut and Paste Main Idea Strips

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MAIN IDEA #1:
First, it's important to stretch our legs, arms, and shoulders.

MAIN IDEA #2:
Once warmed up, you are ready for sports.

MAIN IDEA #3:
For a treat, the gym teacher sometimes lets us play games, like Capture the Flag.

Conclusion: Whether you're running, stretching, playing sports or enjoying games, you will do well in gym class just as long as you keep moving. Being active helps us stay healthy - and it is fun.

Detail Sentences

GYM CLASS

Stretching is important because you are less likely to get hurt while playing sports if you stretch out first.

When the weather is good, we go outside and run around the track to warm-up.

When it is raining or snowing, we warm-up and stretch in the gym.

If you get tired during a warm-up run, you can take a break and walk.

The only rule during warm-up is to keep moving.

As part of our warm-up, we also do exercises to help us build muscles.

Warming up with sit-ups makes your stomach strong.

Starting with push-ups will give you powerful arms and shoulders.

In the fall, we usually go outside and play soccer.

We wear shin guards and everybody gets a chance to be the goalie.

In the spring, we play baseball.

Some people are great hitters.

Others are better at catching and throwing the ball.

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Detail Sentences

In the winter, we focus on basketball.

We learn how to dribble the ball and we practice shooting baskets.

Sports are a good way to learn how to work as a team.

You also learn not to be a sore loser.

But everybody's favorite game is Animal Moves.

To play, you pick an animal and everybody tries to move like that creature would.

For example, if you picked a frog, you would have to use your hands to push yourself up from the floor as you hop in the air.

The elephant walk is also fun.

Clasp your hands together in front of you and pretend it's a trunk.

Walk with heavy steps as you swing your make believe trunk from side to side.

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In this game, when the music stops, we freeze.

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Cut and Paste Main Idea Strips

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MAIN IDEA #1:
If you saw a penguin, would you recognize it?

MAIN IDEA #2:
Penguins cannot fly but they get around in other ways.

MAIN IDEA #3:
It is easy to imagine that penguins are friendly because they live in such large groups.

Conclusion: From the smallest to the tallest, penguins are amazing animals. Clumsy on land but graceful in the water, they live in large groups and seem to enjoy each other's company.

PENGUINS

The largest of all is the Emperor Penguin.

This type of penguin can be found in Antarctica.

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Also in Antarctica, you will find the Chinstrap Penguin.

This unique bird has a fine black line, which looks like a chin strap, stretching from one cheek to the other.

The smallest type of penguin lives in Australia and is only about 14 inches tall.

Instead of wings, they have flippers so they are terrific swimmers.

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Some penguins can dive to great depths and stay underwater for as long as 20 minutes.

Detail Sentences

As they swim they can see clearly underwater and are able to spot prey even in cloudy water.

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However, they can waddle along for long distances.

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To save energy, they can even slide along ice on their bellies at great speeds.

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