

Amesbury Elementary School

Writing Program

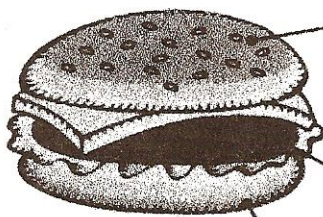


What is an "Answer Sandwich"

In an effort to improve student achievement, specifically in the area of writing, our entire staff has participated in a professional reading called, Better Answers by Ardith Davis Cole. The Better Answers formula is a step by step procedure that helps students to focus on written responses that "look good and sound smart". The answer sandwich is an effective tool that allows the writer to make sure all parts of a good answer are included. The picture below illustrates the answer sandwich model. We encourage parents to assist their child(ren) in using this model at home to improve written responses. Here a sample question and answer for you to use as a model while working with your child at home. This not only works for language class, but is effective in science, social studies, history, geography and math. We encourage the use of this model for answering questions in all subjects.

How To Write a Better Answer-Using the Answer Sandwich Model

The Answer Sandwich — Did I:



- 1 Restate part of the question *and*
- include a *gist* (general answer) in the first sentence?
- 2 Provide *evidence* for my answer (e.g., at least 2 details and/or connections) *and*
- use a transition word or phrase in each sentence?
- 3 *Close* by referring to the question again?

Sample Question and answer using the Sandwich Model

Why were the three bears upset when they returned from their walk?

The three bears were upset when they returned from their walk because their house was not like they left it. (*restatement with gist*) To begin with they noticed that someone had been eating their porridge. Next, they discovered that someone had broken baby bear's chair. Furthermore, their beds were messed up. Most important, however, was that there was a girl *in* one of their beds! (*details with evidence*) As a result of all that confusion, the bears were very upset. (*concluding statement*)

Transition words for writing about: ←

<p><u>Sequence / order</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first, second, third • at first, to begin with, next, also, then, furthermore; at last, finally, at the end, most importantly • before, in the meantime, shortly after 	<p><u>Details</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for example, for instance, in fact, for one thing, for another thing, in particular, to illustrate 	<p><u>The Close</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that is why ... • that is how ... • for these reasons ... • in conclusion ... • in other words ... • to conclude ... • in summary ...
<p><u>Similarities / likenesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the same way, like, likewise, similarly 	<p><u>Contrast / differences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • however, in contrast, on the other hand, otherwise, unlike, despite this 	