

# Details

Improving the depth of explanation in expository, persuasive, et al

## • PROBLEM

- Simple or weak details
- Lack of details
- Zero to no expansion of thought (+ELAR 3.2)
- Superficially touches on otherwise good details
- Sentence fluency does not match expository style (+ELAR 1.2)
- **Does not vary** the sentence structure, length, or beginnings (“)
- Writing does not invite oral reading

## • SOLUTION

In each case, improve the detail with “Detail Expansion” (DE)



(+ELAR 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2)

1. Underline all of the details (examples) in the paragraph
2. Ask yourself the following question: How can I use Detail Expansion to improve my examples?

If....



3. Create a Detail Expansion cluster (a cluster that has What, Why, How bubbles)
4. Using the cluster, answer in writing the *What . . .*, *Why . . .*, and *How . . .* for the weak detail
5. Cross out the old detail . . . (this is a revise: omit)
6. Write in the expanded detail (many sentences) into the draft . . . (this is a revise: add)
7. Reread the paragraph in its entirety to make sure it sounds good

**Caution:** Do not do this to every detail. Doing so will reduce the sentence fluency of the composition because each example will have the same sentence structure. Awareness of when to use this technique is the deciding factor between not proficient and proficient. Some details only need a *What*. Some, only a *What* and *How*. Others, a *How* and *Why*. Mix up the order .