

# Analysis of Sentence Fluency

Getting into the sentences that make up our writing

<b>The technique</b>	<b>What the technique does</b>	<b>What you do</b>
1. Sentence Beginnings	1. Provides a quick and simple way to look at sentences and find over used words, styles, and structures. You can then use Sentence Expansion & Arrangement (SEA) to improve the sentence fluency.	1. Using the handout entitled “Sentence Openings/ Analysis Sheet,” write down the first four words of each sentence. Look for overused sentence starts. Fix or pat self on back accordingly. Grammatical structures can be used to mix up the style of sentence starts.
2. Sentence Lengths	2. Is a numerical way of looking at writing that helps you to get beyond the words and look closely at sentence complexity/length. It helps to point out monotone writing. It helps you adjust the overall feel of the writing by adjusting the sentence like adjusting the equalizer on your radio for that “perfect” sound.	2. Write down the first four words of each sentence and the sentence’s overall word count. Analyze sentence length for purpose. Longer sentences are slower to read and create a slower tone. They also tend to be more complex. Short sentences are the opposite. Too much of either will equal weak sentence variety.
3. Underlining detail	3. Allows you to easily see your details and supporting examples to see if you have expanded them well for the reader.	3. If the detail is weak and more could be added to the writing by providing expansion of thought, use Detail Expansion (DE).
4. Color Coding	4. A visual way to analyze sentence structure (fluency). Provides a colorful visual for analyzing writing that allows you to get “beyond” the words and see the areas to fix. Turns sentence structures into colors that are more easily seen. You want a mixture of colors unless you have a dramatic purpose.	4. Use the Coloring Coding handout and color each sentence. Look at the overall color of the writing. Does one color dominate? You may want to mix it up especially if the color dominates in successive sentences. (Hemingway has repeating sentence structures for effect. Students rarely do.) Consider using Sentence Expansion & Arrangement (SEA) to vary the sentence structures which will vary the colors which will vary the rhythm (fluency)
5. Music	5. An auditory way to analyze sentence fluency.	5. First, you need to complete the Color Coding

	<p>Allows you to hear the music (fluency) in your sentence structures. You want a mixture of sounds to create a pleasing melody. Music is not just one note; writing is not just one sentence structure. You want an orchestra of sentences.</p>	<p>process (see #4). Then, using a keyboard that has color keys for each color on the coding handout, play the colors: one note for each colored sentence. Listen for the notes that are redundant like a skipping CD. This monotonous tone will bore the reader. Fix with Sentence Expansion &amp; Arrangement, etc.</p>
6. Art	<p>6. A visual/kinesthetic way to explore the sentence fluency in your writing. Turns a more concrete medium (writing) into a symbolic one (art). This is a reflection activity that helps you reflect on the variety of “paint” in your writing. With the reflection, you can then revise your writing. This activity can also help you get past a writing block.</p>	<p>6. First, you need to complete the Color Coding process (see #4). Take the colors that appear in your writing and use them to create an art piece. The amount the color appears in your art piece should reflect the amount it appears in your writing. This art piece can be a quick sketch with colors or a guided tour of the art process of creation and revision (same as the writing process).</p>
7. Graph	<p>7. Provides a mathematical/visual way to look at the variety of sentence complexity/length. It is a good way you to analyze your sentences and see how the sentences affect the overall writing piece. This is a good opportunity to reinforce graphing skills from math class.</p>	<p>7. Using the information from the Sentence Lengths activity, take the number of words in each sentence and plot that against the sentence order on graph paper. Put “Number of Words” on the y-axis and “Sentence Order” on the x-axis.</p>
8. Scan	<p>8. One of the simplest techniques to use after or while writing. Helps to locate overuse words and “dead words” (those words not allowed in writing). A good step toward using a thesaurus.</p>	<p>8. Scan your writing for overused words. Highlight, underline, or box in overused words and “dead words.” Fix using SEA, pronouns, thesaurus, etc. You should do this at least three times. Try reading your writing backward.</p>
9. Other	<p>9. Provides additional ways to analyze sentence fluency because this is the writing trait that makes people want to read your writing.</p>	<p>9. Use these analyzing techniques each time you write. You can make your writing great or not. The choice is yours (the skills are yours).</p>