

Sentence Count and Graph

What: You will analyze and observe the SENTENCE FLUENCY in your writing.

Why: You will use this opportunity to practice, learn, and improve your fluency. Sentence Fluency is the music, rhythm, or sound of the writing. Writing that has great sentence fluency is fun to read and sounds great.

How: Follow the directions below.

1. Take out a sheet of paper and draw columns so that it looks like this and then write . . .

Sentence Number	Number of Words	First Four Words	Observation/Revision/Type of Sentence

These are the lines on your paper on which you will write (it can be graph paper as well)

2. Put a number 1 in the first column, under *Sentence Number*. This represents the first sentence in your essay.
3. Choose one body paragraph in your essay. Count the number of words the first sentence has. Place that number in the column named *Number of Words*.
4. Neatly write the first four words of your first sentence in column *First Four Words*.
5. Do this for each sentence in your first body paragraph.
6. In the last column, *Observation/Revision*, jot down any observations you have about that paragraph. For example, do you notice several sentences about the same length? Do you start any of your sentences with the same word, or repeat any word often? Is there anything that you would change? Did you notice something cool that you did?
7. On the back of the paper, write a paragraph on any observations based on this data. This paragraph should include the word “observation” and describe what you did to get the data. **KEEP THE TABLE/ANALYSIS FOR TURN IN.**

***The most important part of this process is the Observation/Revision column. It is where the improvement comes. Anyone can write down numbers and words, but only a high-quality person can make sense of it all.

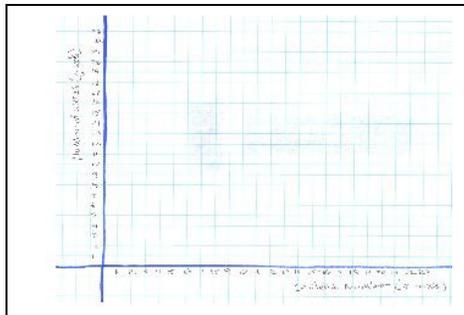
Graph the information

What: We are going to graph the flow of your essay using graph paper and math concepts.

Why: This will give you a great visual of (1) the rhythm of your writing, (2) where most of your sentence lengths fall, and (3) areas on which to improve

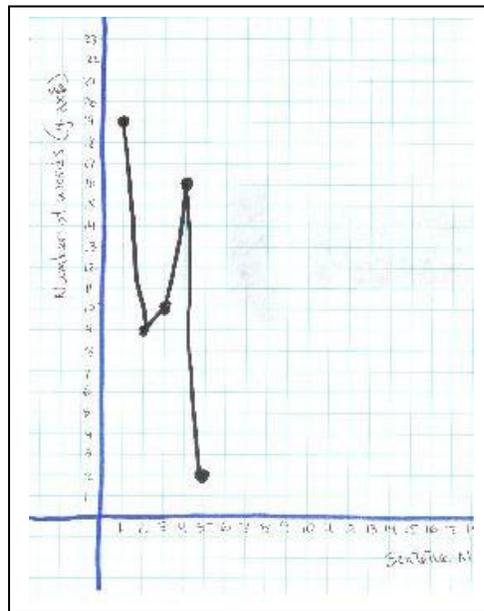
How: Follow the directions below.

1. Orient the graph paper so that it is wide, horizontally (“hot dog” or “landscape”).
2. Draw a dark vertical line four spaces in from the left edge.
3. Draw a dark horizontal line four spaces up from the bottom edge.
4. Number the lines NOT THE SPACES so that it looks like this:



It does not
matter at what
number you end

5. In the middle, label the horizontal line “Sentence Number (x-axis)”
 6. In the middle, label the vertical line “Number of Words (y-axis)”
 7. Title the graph “Sentence Fluency (and your first and last name, period)”
 8. Using a body paragraph, count the number of words in your first sentence and then plot that number along with the sentence number of 1. For example, my first sentence has 19 words and the first point will look like this:
9. Now count the number of words in your second sentence. Plot that number against the x-axis for sentence #2. Make a point. Repeat with next sentence.
 10. Connect the two points with a line.
 11. Continue this practice for your sentences until you reach the end of the paragraph.
 12. Repeat for with whichever paragraphs your teacher instructs you to do.
 13. On the back of your graph, write about what you notice about your sentences.



***See also creating a table and graphing Sentence Fluency using Excel