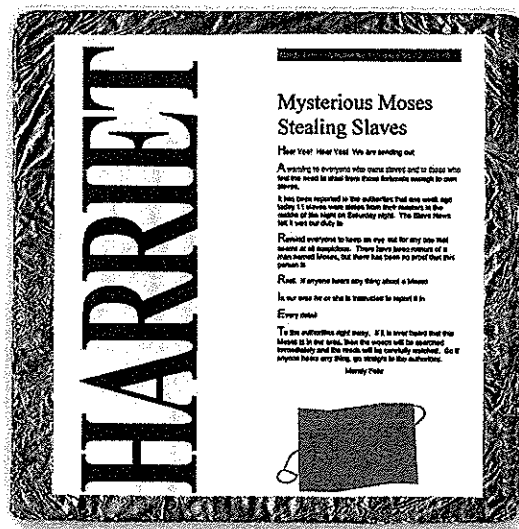


Title-Down Paragraphs

Most students are familiar with acrostics. The Title-Down Paragraphs activity utilizes the basic acrostic format to help students build an organized collection of important facts they find in a nonfiction story or book.



Modeling the Activity

- * Choose a nonfiction story for modeling this activity. After you've read it aloud to your students, ask them to supply a main topic heading for the selection. (A sample is provided on the reproducible on page 28.)
- * Record the heading by writing it in bold letters down the left-hand side of the transparency of page 28. Have students generate sentences that provide topic information and record the informational sentences next to the bold letters. (Remind students that their sentences may flow into the next letter in the topic word.)
- * Be sure students understand that topics may be identified in different ways. For example, "GREAT FIRE" or "CHICAGO FIRE" would both work for Jim Murphy's book.

On Their Own

Provide students with copies of pages 28 and 29. Students may want to rewrite their Title-Down Paragraphs on a sheet of drawing paper and use creative lettering for the title. Tell students to be prepared to turn in page 28 with their completed paragraphs.

Objective

Select significant facts found in nonfiction text

Materials

For the teacher:

- * Transparency of page 28

For the student:

- * Copies of pages 28 and 29

Stories for Modeling

Powwow by George Ancona
(Harcourt Trade Publishers, 1993)

Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor by Russell Freedman
(Clarion, 1994)

The Great Fire by Jim Murphy
(Scholastic, 1995)

Title-Down Paragraphs

Name _____ Date _____

A Title-Down Paragraph uses an acrostic topic heading to help you organize information you've learned about your topic. Below is a sample Title-Down Paragraph based on information about Harriet Tubman.

MOSES

Moses, or Harriet Tubman, was the most famous conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Other people who helped Harriet include Thomas Garret of Wilmington, Delaware, and Reverend J. W. Loguen of Syracuse, New York.

Saying the phrase, "A friend with friends," indicated Harriet was waiting outside a "safehouse" with runaway slaves.

Even Harriet was scared sometimes, and she knew she had to carry a gun, because once a

Slave ran away, he or she could never return to the plantation for fear of being forced to tell the names and places of the people involved in the Underground Railroad.

Plan your Title-Down Paragraph by filling in the information below. Use the back of this sheet if you need more room. When you have rewritten and edited your paragraph, copy it onto a separate sheet of paper.

Possible Topic Title _____

Topic Letters	Sentences of Fact

RUBRIC

Title-Down Paragraphs

Name _____ Date _____

Topic Title _____

Source of Information _____

Category	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average
Topic title/ choice	Insightful; fits the most important facts	Creative; fits the facts	Appropriate; fits most facts	Inaccurate; misses main idea
Sentences	Varied, complete sentences	Complete sentences; good details	Complete sentences	Incomplete sentences
Mechanics	Skillful use of mechanics	Very few errors in mechanics	A few errors in mechanics	Several errors in mechanics
Appearance	Eye-catching	Attractive	Neat	Sloppy
Accuracy of facts	Completely accurate	Completely accurate	Mostly accurate	Somewhat accurate

Teacher's Comments: _____
