Sentence Expansion Mini-Practice

Technique	Everybody Writes
Objective	To practice drafting a "But, Because, So," sentence expansion activity for students
Description of Activity	A planning activity in which participants experience the "But, Because, So," sentence expansion activity as an adult student and then practice drafting a sentence expansion activity for students
Estimated Time	10-15 minutes
Prepping for Your Session	To prepare for the activity, we suggest you:

1. Build background knowledge by reading the pages on *Art of the Sentence* from TLAC 2.0*,* as well as the blog posts below. You might also assign these as pre-reading to your participants.

2. **Plan the Practice:** Take about 15 minutes to familiarize yourself with these activity directions and adapt and/or print out the materials for your team.

Resources	• *Art of the Sentence,* TLAC 2.0
	• Blog post links

- o [Three Types of Writing in the Classroom](#)
- o [Developmental Writing: Especially Useful with Short Assignments & Fast Revision](#)
- o [Hochman's "But, Because, So" Sentence Expansion Activity](#)
- o ["Because, But, So" Goes 2.0 with Direct Quotations](#)
- o [Writing about 'Mice and Men': Some Examples from Our Curriculum](#)

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Step 1: Framing and Objective (<1 minute) Explain the objective for today's session: "You will first experience the 'But, Because, So' sentence expansion activity as a student before creating a similar activity for your own students. The 'But, because, so' activity has two aims: It helps students think more deeply about rich content, and it is designed to teach students how to write—to expand their ability to write more syntactically complex sentences."

Step 2: Planning-Step 1 (5 minutes) Show the painting, 'The Fall of Icarus' by Peter Bruegel, and give the following context: "The painting on the screen is "The Fall of Icarus" by Pieter Bruegel. Icarus, you may recall, is a figure from Greek mythology whose father Daedalus devised an escape for his son and himself by flying from their locked tower on wings made of bird feathers and wax. Before they flew, Daedalus warned his son not to fly too close to the sun or the wax in his wings would melt. Icarus ignored his father's warning and as a result crashed into the sea. Here, in the bottom corner of the painting, we can see Icarus' legs sticking out of the water."

Give participants 2-3 minutes to complete the sentence stem, "Icarus crashed into the sea..." with "but, because, so."

Optional: You may have participants share the sentences they created with a partner or you can share out some exemplar sentences with the group.

Step 3: Planning-Step 2 (4-6 minutes) Based on the Icarus painting, ask participants to create their own "But, because, so" activity for students.

Optional: You may have participants trade to complete one another's sentences in order to check the stems they created for quality and clarity.

Step 4: But Because So Debrief (3-4 minutes) Ask participants to spend 2 minutes to complete the reflection and next steps. Call on a few to share out.

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Objective: To experience the "But, Because, So," sentence expansion activity as an adult student and then practice drafting one for students.

Directions Step #1: Complete the following sentence stem using "but," "because," "so":

> "Icarus crashed into the sea..."

Icarus crashed into the sea, but_____

_____

_____

Icarus crashed into the sea because _____

_____

_____

Icarus crashed into the sea so _____

_____

_____

Step #2: Now, draft your own "But, Because, So" sentence stem for students to complete:

Now have a **partner** complete your stem using "But," "Because," and "So."

Sentence Expansion Reflection

Sentence Expansion activities will help my students deepen their thinking and develop syntactic control, but _____

_____

_____

Sentence Expansion activities will help my students deepen their thinking and develop syntactic control because _____

_____

_____

Sentence Expansion activities will help my students deepen their thinking and develop syntactic control so _____

_____

_____

Sentence Expansion Next Steps

Two pieces of my content I will try this with tomorrow/next week are:

1.

2.