

The Life of a Penny-Story Sequencing

Goals: Student will write a narrative story

Objectives: 4th & 5th Grades: 4.05 Use a variety of preliminary strategies to plan and organize the writing and speaking task considering purpose, audience, and timeline. 4.06 Compose a draft that elaborates on major ideas and adheres to the topic by using an appropriate organizational pattern that accomplishes the purpose of the writing task and effectively communicates its content. 4.07 Compose a variety of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama using self-selected topic and format (e.g., poetry, research reports, news articles, letters to the editor, business letters).

Materials: Pennies, encyclopedias, history texts, or internet

Attention: Have you ever looked at a penny carefully? Today I brought some pennies with me. I am going to give you a penny and I want you to look at it. Do you see the year? We are going to use these pennies for a writing activity.

Today we will use our pennies to write in a sequence. Why is it important to write a story in order?

Discuss why sequencing is important in writing a narration.

Model/Discuss: We will look at our pennies and find the year. Then you and I will imagine that we are that penny and think about what has happened in our life during those years. We will write our ideas as we brainstorm and then we will number them in order. Finally we will write the story of the life of the penny.

First, I look at my penny. I see the year is 1933. I remember that there was a depression in the US at that time and many people were very poor. So I'm going to write, "born-1933, poor family". Next, I'm going to imagine that my penny was a girl who lived in New York, in a small apartment, in a big family, and only went to school until she was 12. So I'll jot down those ideas.

Now I will number the ideas so they follow a logical sequence.

Finally, I will write my story. I need to start with a sentence that will introduce my life. For example, I could write, "My life has been difficult but I have become a great success." Then I will write sentences from my notes, using my numbers to help me write the events in order. I will write, "I was born in 1933. My family was very poor." Last I will write a concluding sentence that will wrap up my life, "Although I began as a poor girl, I became a successful businesswoman. I am the American dream."

Independent Practice: The student will look at their penny and imagine the events (or research the years since the penny was minted.) He/She will write notes about their