



Cut & Paste



Comments:

Elaboration creates pictures in the mind of the reader. Students often have difficulty deciding where their writing needs elaboration. Guiding writers through this cutting and pasting process helps them to learn when, where, and how to elaborate their ideas.

Supplies:

A copy of examples #1-3 for every writer or a paragraph of a student's own writing. (*See page 68*)

Highlighting marker (light colors – yellow is preferable)

Scissors

Stick Glue

Paper

1. Student reads the paper aloud.
2. Discuss the paragraph and decide where the writer could have elaborated his/her idea (*or given more information*).
3. Tell students that if any question pops in their head as they read the writing, then that might be an unelaborated area. For example in the following passage, the writer should have described the unusual dog.

Racing through the kennel, I turned down an aisle and ran smack dab into the most unusual dog that I had ever seen. He raced up to me, jumped up, laid his paws on my shoulders, and licked my face. Right then, I decided that I had to have THIS dog!