Graphic Organizers

- (1) Star Story Organizer: where the middle of the star is the "TOPIC" and each point of the star is Who, What, Where, When and Why.
- (1) Bubble Story Organizer: where the middle bubble is the "TOPIC" and the 8 bubbles coming out from the main bubble are the "supporting details".
- See this example http://www.enchantedlearning.com/graphicorganizers/star/gifs/trexstar.GIF
- (1) Fact or Opinion Chart
- (1) Venn Diagram: compare 2 different stories (or characters) to see how they are similar or different.
- (1) Ladder Organizer: where the top rung is the "Main Idea" and each rung below has a supporting detail.
- (1) Spider Web Story Map: should include spaces for "characters", "setting", "problem", "solution".
- (1) Story Hamburger: where the top bun is the TOPIC, the middle lettuce, tomato, patty, cheese are Supporting Details and the bottom bun is the CONCLUSION.
- (1) Ice Cream Cone: where the cone is the TOPIC and each scoop is a Supporting Detail.

Identifying Action Verbs

It is important to understand the difference between action verbs and the verb "to be" in writing. All action verbs show action, while the verb "to be" describes state of being – is, am, are, was, were. Read the list of sentences below. Circle the verbs in each sentence and indicate whether the sentence is active or passive.

Some sample sentences that use the verb "to be" as the main verb:

• My parents are hard working people.
• Helping people who need support after a disaster is a good way to spend your time.
• We were scared when the electricity went out during the storm.
• While waiting in line to pay for our tickets, my father was on his cell phone.
• The horses the students wanted to ride were in the stable being brushed.

Some sample sentences that use action verbs as the main verb:

• The sun rises in the east every day.
• Playing basketball after school with friends builds a healthy body.
• We rushed to the bus stop because my sister took too much time combing her hair.
• When brushing my dog's long hair, I slowly stroke along her whole body.
• My brother waits until the last minute to get out of his bed.

Using Action Verbs

It is important to understand the difference between action verbs and the verb "to be" in writing. All action verbs show action, while the verb "to be" describes state of being – is, am, are, was, were. While it's okay to use "to be" sometimes, your writing will shine much more when you use lots of action verbs instead of the verb "to be"!

Practice editing the sentences below by changing the "to be" verb to an action verb.

Sample sentence: The children are on the playing field.
The children run on the playing field.

• While waiting in line at the fair, my father was on his cell phone.
• The crayons were on the floor in a big mess.
• I made a funny face because the light was in my eyes.