

## Formal Writing Curriculum-Based Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Ms. Shapiro's Class \* Lafayette ES\* Washington, DC

- 1 Hello, and welcome to  
ALL The Washington Post Cub Reporters' Convention Seminar.
- 6 [Sound effect: cell phone ringing]  
1 Oh, and please silence all cell phones and beepers.  
ALL [Gesture: silencing cell phones]  
1-4 We are the instructors for formal writing.  
5 Formal writing... what's that?  
ALL Formal writing uses sophisticated and correct language to communicate with educated readers.
- 7 So, alright, how do we start?  
2 Planning always comes first so you know what you're going to write about.  
3 A good way to start is with a web.  
8 You mean the thing that a spider makes?  
ALL Spider Man, Spider Man... [gesture]  
4 No, in writing a web is a chart you use to organize your ideas.  
9 OK, a web. And then what?  
1 You write your first draft, which includes  
ALL The introduction, paragraphs with details, transition sentences, and a conclusion to wrap it all up.  
ALL [Gesture/sound effect: snap & click]  
10 Introduction... that sounds like introducing.  
3 A+  
ALL The introduction tells what the writing will be about, where and when, the main ideas, and any main characters.  
11 OK, we know a paragraph is a bunch of sentences about a new topic.  
12 But what's the big deal about details?  
2 Details give you extra information to help the reader get a better picture of what you're writing about.  
ALL [Gesture/sound effect]  
Hmm, I see what you mean [Gesture: point to head] Extra information? Excelente! [Gesture:thumb up]  
13 I heard you mention transitions. You mean those things that make your car run?  
ALL Not transmissions, transitions!  
ALL Sound effect: Duh!
- 13 Sorry! [gesture: shrug]  
ALL Transitions smoothly connect one paragraph to the next.  
ALL [Gesture: each hand out to side]  
14 So let me guess—now you're going to ask us about conclusions.  
4 Why yes, you cubs are smarter than you look.  
ALL In formal writing, a conclusion is used to restate your final thoughts, feelings, and experience.  
15 My final thought is I need a cup of coffee!  
16 My feeling is this seminar needs to conclude!  
17 In my experience, enough is enough!  
1 Wait a minute, your writing's not done yet!  
ALL [GROAN] Why not?  
2 Because you've only done your rough draft!  
18 Isn't that good enough!?  
3 In your dreams little cubs! Now it's time for...  
ALL Revision! [Gesture: hand in air.]  
4 That's right. Proofread and improve your writing to create your...  
ALL Final draft!  
19 And now we're done! [Gesture: pretend to walk away.]  
1 Not quite! There's one more thing you need!  
ALL What? [gesture]  
2 A title for your writing.  
ALL Right, a title.  
20 What's the big deal about a title?  
21 A title grabs the reader's attention, remember?  
22 A title tells you what the writing is about, remember?  
ALL Oh, yeah! [gesture]  
1-4 Congratulations, you have all passed the Washington Post Cub Reporter's Convention Seminar!  
ALL YAY!!! [Freeze in a cheering pose.]  
2 Session 1  
ALL Awww. [Gesture: leaning over, disappointed.]  
3 Be here tomorrow at 2:00 for session 2:  
1-4 "Persuasive Writing For All People."  
ALL We can hardly wait.