**From Funky Thing to Finished Product**

Extension Activity for grades 4-8

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The goal of my presentation is to get students to see the fun of writing. You can take advantage of the momentum generated by the presentation with the following activity.

It’s All About Voice

Explain that playing with the voice of a piece of writing can be a blast. Then try this exercise that professional writers do to loosen up their voice. [This activity was done a national writer’s conference with big name writers practicing just like everyone else so it is not just a school exercise.]

* Show the image on a screen.
* Ask students to write:
  1. A sentence about the image. *Any sentence*. It does not have to be perfect because once they get it written, they are going to get to change it. They should number it #1.
  2. Take that sentence and re-write it with a different verb tense. In other words, “the bug has” becomes “The bug had” or something like that. They can feel free to change other words as well. Number that #2 and quickly move on to the next one.
  3. Rewrite it again using a different point of view. [Note: they can go back to sentence #1 or #2 for this.]
  4. Write it as if a VERY boring teacher said it.
  5. Pick a cartoon character. Write it as if they said it. Have fun with it!
  6. Add alliteration to one of the sentences (words that start with the same sounds).
  7. Write it as if a bus driver said it.
  8. Add onomatopoeia (words that represent sounds).
  9. Write it in a poetic way (any type of poem you want – it does not have to rhyme).
  10. Pick your favorite and revise.
* Allow students to share their first sentence and their favorite. Congratulate them all on their abilities to change voices with each of the statements.

[FYI, but do not tell this to the students until after the activity, this is an assassin bug which lives in Alabama. It jabs its needle-like proboscis (mouth parts) into other bugs, spits digestive juices into them which turn their insides into mush, and then slurps them out like you would slurp out a milkshake! The wheel shape on its back makes it hard for birds to swallow the bug.]

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