

# Step Up To Writing

Dear Parents,

This is our format for writing the entire year. We will explain it more to you at parent conferences but, you can refer to this throughout the year and while doing the writing homework.

The color coded writing format is as follows:

**Black-** Title of the story (make sure the start of each word in the title begins with a capital letter)

-Example- My Cat

**Green-** Topic Sentence

-The topic sentence lets the reader know what the story is going to be about.

-Example- I love my cat for many reasons.

**Yellow-** Slow down sentence or detail sentence that gives a reason to your topic. The students are encouraged to use transitional words to start this sentence.

-#1 yellow sentence can use-

**First, First of all, One, One way, and One example,**

-#2 yellow sentence can use-

**Second, The second, Next, The next, Another, and Also,**

-#3 yellow sentence can use-

**Third, Last, The final, and Finally**

-Example- First, my cat likes to play games.

**Red-** Stop! Explain "why" to the yellow sentence that you just wrote. We teach this sentence when the students have a good grasp of how to write a paragraph.

-Example- He likes it when I throw a piece of yarn at him.

**Green-** Ending sentence or Go Back Green. Start this sentence with a "conclusion transition" word such as: **In fact, Surely, Truly, Clearly, To sum it up, Obviously, Certainly, In conclusion, and All in all,**

This sentence is basically the same sentence as the first green sentence but saying it in a different way.

-Example- All in all, my cat is great!

Sample story using no RED sentences:

### My Cat

I love my cat for many reasons. First, my fluffy cat likes to play games. Second, my cat likes to lay with me. Last, my cat likes to ride in our blue car. All in all, my cat is great!

Sample story including RED sentences:

### My Cat

I love my cat for many reasons. First, my fluffy cat likes to play games. He likes it when I throw a piece of yarn to him. Second, my cat likes to lay with me. He watches my favorite TV show with me on the couch. Last, my cat likes to ride in our blue car. We go to visit my grandma. All in all, my cat is great!

The following are suggestions for ways to begin the topic sentence  
AND ways to begin the ending sentence.

### Topic Sentence Starters:

Let me tell you about...  
I know a lot about...  
I like...  
I know many things about...

### Ending Sentence Starters:

Truly, my \_\_\_\_\_ is great!  
In fact, knowing \_\_\_\_\_ is fun!  
All in all, I like \_\_\_\_\_.  
Obviously, I know a lot about \_\_\_\_\_.  
Clearly, I love my \_\_\_\_\_.

### Transition Words (Yellow Sentence)

First,  
First of all,  
One,

Second,  
Another,  
Next,  
Also,

Third,  
Finally,  
Last,

### Ending Sentence (Go Back Green)

In fact,  
Obviously,  
To sum up,  
Truly,  
Clearly,

Definitely,  
Certainly,  
In conclusion,  
All in all,  
Surely,