



**LITERACY APPROACH FOR JANUARY
LONGFELLOW MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Sentence Fluency

Every seventh and eighth grader in FCPS receives explicit instruction in each of the Six Traits of Writing: ideas, organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, and conventions. In January, instruction is focusing on sentence fluency.

So, what is it?

Fluency is the rhythm and flow of language, or how writing sounds to the ear.

When fluency is achieved in writing:

Sentence beginnings vary; all sentences do not begin the same way.

Sentence lengths vary; simple and compound sentences are used.

Transitional words and phrase are used to connect ideas smoothly.

How can I help my child with sentence fluency?

- Play with words; make it a dinner table game where family members take turns expanding a sentence to create fluency:
He laughed.
He laughed at the silly joke.
Unfortunately, only he laughed at the silly joke, etc.
Continue until someone is stumped or the sentence can't be expanded any more without becoming a run-on sentence.
- Intentionally begin your conversational sentences with the same beginnings, e.g. subject/verb: I said ..., He did ..., She went ...
It will be harder than you think to begin every sentence with the same pattern. Your repetition and monotony should prompt discussion about how those sentence beginnings could be more interesting. How we speak is often how we write.
- Read with your child. Research shows readers are better writers!