

Smiley Tricks and Strategies

Revising Techniques 2



**Young
Scholars
Circle**



Smiley Face Tricks

Tricks to Make Your Readers Smile
Make Your Writing Memorable

1. Magic 3



- Three parallel groups of words, usually separated by commas, that create a poetic rhythm or add support for a point, especially when the items have their own modifiers:
- Example:
 - *In those woods, I spent hours LISTENING to the wind rustle the leaves, CLIMBING trees and spying on nesting birds, and GIVING the occasional wild growl to scare away any pink-flowered girls who might be riding their bikes too closely to my secret entrance.*

Magic 3 Try It!

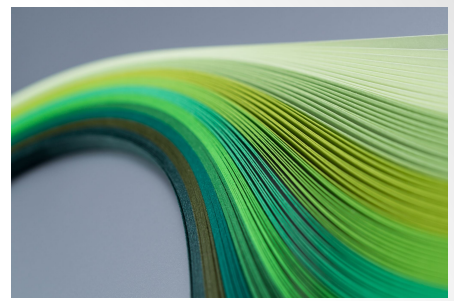


- **Task**: Using any topic from your essays, write a sentence using a Magic 3 parallel structure.

Example:

I sat on my bed crying about the future I thought would be, hoping for a different outcome, and praying somehow we would be reunited together again.

2. Figurative Language

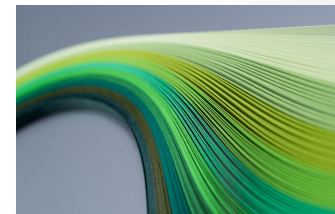


- Non-literal comparisons - such as similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, symbolism, irony, alliteration, assonance, and so on
- Adds “spice” to writing and can help paint a more vivid picture for the reader
- Figurative Cheat Sheet @ YSC Dashboard
- Example:
 - *The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses on its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. (Natalie Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting)*

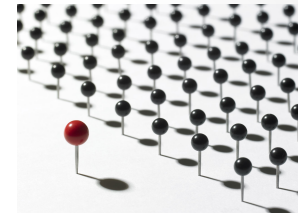
Figurative Language Try It!

- Extended simile (enhanced Figurative Language):

Life is like a river. It starts off young and full of energy like a babbling brook. In the end it snakes lazily and slowly along like the mighty Mississippi until eventually, emptying into the sea, our body once again becomes one with nature.



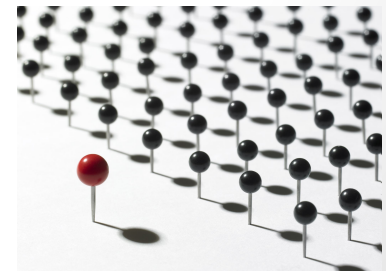
3. Expanded Moment



- Instead of “speeding” past a moment, emphasize it by “expanding” the actions.
- Example:
 - *I wish I could have gone. But no, I had to go to school. And I had to listen to my math teacher preach about numbers and letters and figures...I was tired of hearing her annoying voice lecture about ‘ $a=b$ divided by x .’ I glared at the small black hands on the clock, silently threatening them to go faster. But they didn’t listen; I caught myself wishing I were on white sand and looking down at almost transparent pale-blue water with Josh at my side...I don’t belong in some dumb algebra class. I belong on the beach, where I can soak my feet in caressing water, sip Dr. Pepper all day long, and let the wind wander its way through my chestnut-colored hair.*

3. Expanded Moment Try It!

- **Task**: Think back on your experiences. Choose one specific moment from it and write several sentences going in-depth to expand it.
- **Example**:
 - Click click click goes the shutter on my camera. I stand with my finger on the button as I put my family in frame. Do I zoom in or do a wide shot? How's the lighting? Do I need to change the ISO? The fall colors of red, brown, yellow, and orange are so perfect as I put my sister's family in frame with the lake and trees behind them. I hope I don't screw this up or my sister's going to be so disappointed.



4. Repetition for Effect

- Repeating specially chosen words or phrases to make a point or to stress certain ideas for the reader.
- Example:
 - *The veranda is your only shelter **AWAY FROM** the sister in bed asleep, **AWAY FROM** the brother who plays in the tree house in the field, **AWAY FROM** your chores that await you.*
 - *At the reunion, I stepped away from the sign-in table and nearly collided with my former high-school crush. His chiseled jaw hadn't changed, his mesmerizing eyes hadn't changed, his formidable physique hadn't changed, but I had changed, and I walked confidently away without a backward glance.*

What repetition for effect ISN'T

- It is not the repetition of meaningless or insignificant words.
 - “The,” “a,” “an,” and many other words are naturally needed to connect thoughts.
 - These have no effect most of the time.
 - Example of how you would use “the” with effect:

My brother was *the* best student, *the* star athlete and *the* golden child. I had no chance to shine with him around.

- Notice how the word “the” is consciously chosen and italicized to make a point.

The gymnast was really nervous about the upcoming meet and decided to work on the balance beam throughout the night to perfect the routine.

- Does the repetition of the word “the” have any special meaning here?

5. Hyphenated Modifier

- Connecting two or more **adjectives** or **adverbs** together with a hyphen
- Lends an air of originality and sophistication to your writing
- Example:
 - *She's got this blond hair, with dark highlights, parted in the middle, down past her shoulders, and straight as a preacher. She's got big green eyes that all guys admire and all girls envy, and this I'm-so-beautiful-and-I-know-it smile, you know, like every other super model.*
 - *When I came home after curfew, I almost made it to my room undetected. As I was ever so slowly turning the knob on my bedroom door, almost home-free, my mother flipped on the hallway light with an angry "snap" and pinned me with a you'll-never-make-it-to-your-next-birthday glare.*

Hyphenated Modifier Try It!

- **Task**: Choose a topic from your experiences (resume), and write a sentence using a hyphenated modifier to describe the chosen topic.

- **Example:**

During Spirit Week, Ms. Whitaker walked in with her I-know-I-look-crazy-but-I'm-proud-of-it smile and told us it was time to begin class.

6. Specific Details for Effect

- Instead of general, vague descriptions, use specific sensory details to help the reader visualize the person, place, thing, or idea
- **Example:**
 - *It's one of those experiences where you want to CALL A RADIO STATION and tell your problems to SOME GUY WHO CALLS HIMSELF "DR. JOE" but who isn't more of a doctor than your pet hamster is; one of those experiences where you want to READ A SAPPY HARLEQUIN ROMANCE NOVEL and LISTEN TO TAYLOR SWIFT with a BAG OF OREOS AS YOUR BEST FRIEND; one of those experiences where you wouldn't be surprised if someone came up to you and asked EXACTLY WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU THINKING. Yeah, one of those.*

7. Full-Circle Ending

- Include an image at the beginning of a piece of writing and then mentioning it again at the end
- To wrap up a piece of writing, try repeating a word, phrase, or idea that brings the reader back to an idea at the beginning of a piece.
- Gives your piece a sense of closure

Full-Circle Ending Example

I am sitting out on an **old Dixieland porch** in Mississippi. The American flag waves proudly from its pole. Making itself a web in the corner of the wrought-iron railing is a small black spider. The twin rocking chairs glide back and forth, speaking to each other in the tongue of “rickety rack.” Hanging from a weeping willow, an emerald birdhouse sways in the wind, as the robins sing their never-ending song. Swooping down toward the nearby field, a crop duster exterminates the boll weevils on the cotton and turns the air a bit sour. I send up a wave as a muddy 4 X 4 passes the farm. Anyone’s welcome anytime to come sit **on my Dixieland porch**, and share some Southern hospitality.

--Mary Ellen Ledbetter

Full-Circle Ending Example

Beginning: "One day four big chickens peeked out the coop window and saw a wolf sneak into the farmyard.

The chickens pocked, flocked, and rocked. They knocked into themselves and each other until, one by one, they tumbled out of the coop. The door slammed shut, and the chickens ran into the woods to hide."

Ending: "...The chickens picked, pecked and pocked. They ruffled, puffed, and shuffled. They shrieked, squeaked, and freaked, until...the wolf ran into the woods."

(Big Chickens)

It's your turn! Let's revise and practice...

