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# Sentence Composing For Middle School: A Worktext On Sentence Variety And Maturity



## Synopsis

With the first edition of his book, Don Killgallon changed the way thousands of high school English teachers and their students look at language, literature, and writing by focusing on the sentence. In this revised edition, Killgallon presents the same proven methodology but offers all-new writing exercises designed specifically for the middle school student. Unlike traditional grammar books that emphasize the parsing of sentences, this worktext asks students to imitate the sentence styles of professional writers, making the sentence composition process an enjoyable and challenging one. Killgallon teaches subliminally, nontechnically--the ways real writers compose their sentences, the ways students subsequently intuit within their own writing. Designed to produce sentence maturity and variety, the worktext offers extensive practice in four sentence-manipulating techniques: sentence unscrambling, sentence imitating, sentence combining, and sentence expanding. All of the activities are based on model sentences written by widely respected authors. They are designed to teach students structures they should but seldom use. The rationale is that imitation and practice are as valuable in gaining competence and confidence in written language production as they are in oral language production. Since the practices have proven successful for the great majority of students who have used them in all kinds of schools, it's demonstrably true that Sentence Composing can work anywhere--in any school, with any student.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 11 - 13 years

Grade Level: 6 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Don Killgallon is the originator of the sentence-composing approach and author of numerous sentence-composing worktexts. He is the author or coauthor of Paragraphs for Middle School (2013), Paragraphs for High School (2012), Grammar for College Writing (2010), Story Grammar for Elementary School (2008), Grammar for High School (2007), Grammar for Middle School (2006), Sentence Composing for Elementary School (2000), Sentence Composing for High School (1998), Sentence Composing for College (1998), Sentence Composing for Middle School (1997), and Daily Sentence Composing (Great Source). He currently co-teaches with Jenny Killgallon in the Odyssey Program of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland.

My students are learning how to write in a way they never have before! This is a wonderful model of good writing that is easy to use in the classroom!

Good for my ESL tutee who requires help in his oral and written English skills.

Thank you

Lots of ideas for explaining difficult concepts to my freshmen - I will be using both this book as well as Killgallon's high school level one.

Don Killgallon produces resources I can always use in class, regardless of my students' levels. I love his simple approach to writing, which is always something my students can use to mimic good writing until they find their own writing styles and abilities. I love these books.

This book can be teamed with Killgallon's Sentence Composing for the High School School, but this is the place to start. I used it with students two years ago and they enjoyed the challenge . . . now if we could just get them to incorporate the sentence styles into their daily writing. I'll be using it with low-performing high school students to try to improve their understanding of what is required for them not merely to pass the state's standardized test, but to demonstrate improvement in their writing ability.

This is book is both fun and challenging. I am using it for a seventh grader and a senior--and for myself as well. We are all challenged by some of the exercises. Some of the sentences used as models are very complex and a variety of subjects and styles are presented. The model sentences

also stimulate thought and conversation in other subjects, as well--history to modern ethics.

Using it for 6th grade grammar warm ups. Helps prepare my cadets for the standards test near the end of the year.

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