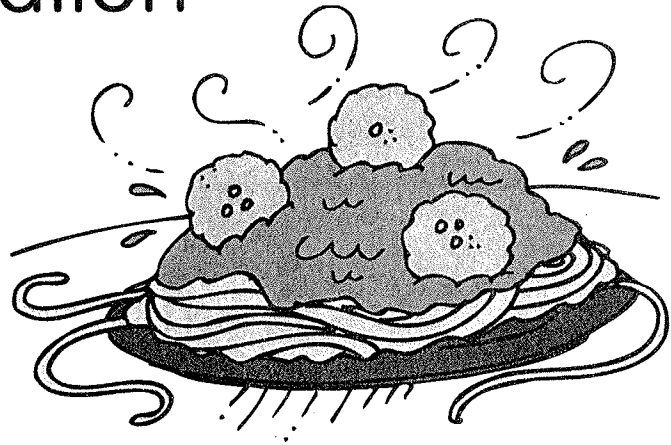


Elaboration

The key to good writing is specific detail. In demand-prompt writing, as mandated by state writing assessments, it is sometimes difficult to encourage the development of the kind of detail needed to support ideas well. In these situations students need to be practiced and polished in planning and adding meaningful detail to their writing.



When using a Four Square writing method, instruction in elaboration can be included in the planning stage. As students complete a Four Square:

<p>First</p> <p>It's easy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll the meat golf balls • Throw in pot huge cauldron-size • Pour store-bought sauce Mama someone or other 	<p>Also</p> <p>It's fun to eat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twirl on fork looks like a twister • Slurp it loud smacking noise • Splatter the sauce like an explosion
<p>My favorite meal is spaghetti and meatballs.</p>	
<p>Third</p> <p>It's delicious</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomatoes red and tangy • Italian spices zippy garlic • Filling meat like a hamburger 	<p>So you can see</p> <p>My favorite meal is spaghetti and meatballs because it's easy to make, fun to eat and delicious.</p>

Have them go back into each box and add a "one time" story. Simply add a personal anecdote or creative tidbit that supports the topic. In the "It's easy" box, one might add a short memoir about the time that 20 people were coming for dinner, and the spaghetti and meatballs were ready in no time, and everyone loved them. Adding an idea like this supports the topic, provides personal anecdote and meaningful detail. In the "It's fun to eat" box a supportive elaboration is likely to include a food fight. The "It's delicious" box might add an elaboration about ordering spaghetti and meatballs at my favorite restaurant for my birthday dinner every year.

Group: _____

Directions: Write a topic sentence and sentences that prove the topic. Then write a detail sentence in boxes 2, 3 and 4. Now write a summary sentence. You may draw pictures to go with your sentences.

[illegible]

Name _____

