



SAMPLE MATERIAL

## Check This Out

Newport Elementary School, California

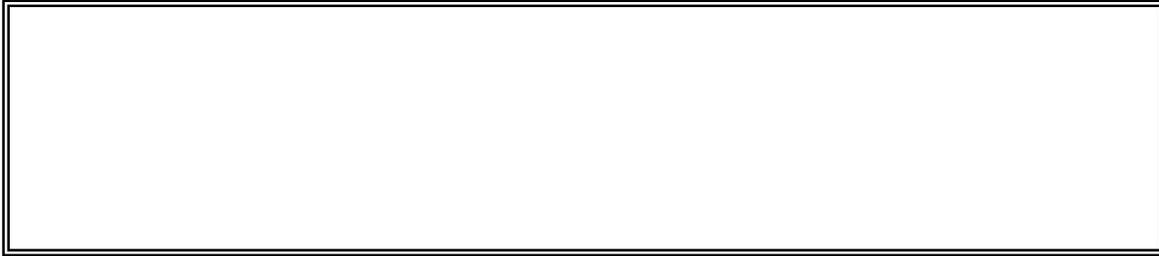
**Topic:** Teaching Elementary School Students to Be Effective Writers

**Practice:** Foundational Skills

A sixth-grade teacher at Newport Elementary School uses this template to conduct a mentor text activity that helps students examine the features of effective sentence construction. The teacher selects one or two sentences each day and asks students to respond to five basic questions that help them understand effective sentence construction. In addition to examining well-crafted sentences, students practice emulating them. Students have a “Try It” section in the back of their writer’s notebook, where they can practice trying out different types of sentences and refer to them later during writing time.

To learn more about helping students understand sentence construction, listen to the audio interview *Learning to Construct Effective Sentences*. Teachers can also refer to the *Planning to Teach Sentence Construction* tool in the “Do What Works” section of the website.

## Check This Out!



**Ponder the sentence above. Be ready to discuss with your partner.**

- What do you notice?
- What do you like?
- What sticks with you?
- What is the punctuation doing in this section?
- What would happen if we took a punctuation mark out or moved the punctuation mark?

**Discussion Notes:**

**Try It:**