

BECAUSE, BUT, SO

NAME:

DATE:

DESCRIPTION

The "Because, But, So" writing strategy is a simple and effective framework used to analyze and communicate cause-and-effect relationships in a clear and concise manner. It is particularly helpful in organizing thoughts, arguments, or explanations in both written and verbal communication. This activity was designed by Hochman and Wexler for The Writing Revolution as a sentence expansion activity to build writing skills.

HOW IT WORKS

This strategy for writing sentences uses 3 parts of a sentence. Putting it all together, the Because, But, So strategy creates a cause-and-effect statement like this:

"**Because** [cause], **but** [obstacle/conflict], **so** [effect/result]."

| Because (cause) | But (obstacle/conflict) | So (effect/result) |
|---|---|--|
| In the beginning of the sentence, identify the cause or trigger of an event, situation, or condition. This is the factor that initiates the chain of events and explains "why". | In the second part of the sentence, introduce the obstacle, conflict, or challenge that arises from the initial cause, this should change the direction of the sentence. This "but" provides a complicating factor or point of tension. | In the final part of the sentence, state the "So", the outcome, effect, or result of the initial cause and the subsequent obstacle or conflict. This should explain what happens as a direct consequence of the "Because" and "But". |
| Example: "Because of the heavy snow, the streets are covered..." | Example: "But the city does not have enough plows to clear every street..." | Example: "So most students and teachers did not make it to school today." |

WHY USE BECAUSE, BUT, SO?

By using this structure, you can break down complex situations or ideas into a clear and structured format, making it easier for both the writer and the reader to understand the cause-and-effect relationships at play. This strategy is versatile and can be applied to various types of writing, such as essays, reports, narratives, and even persuasive arguments, to convey information and arguments effectively.