



# FUEL

## Best Practices and Adaptations



# Understanding the FUEL Strategy

- A **mnemonic/framework** for **structuring clear, evidence-based paragraphs** .
  - **F**act (Topic Sentence)
  - **U**nderstanding (Explanation/Clarification)
  - **E**vidence (Support with Text/Data)
  - **L**ink (Conclusion/Transition)



# Understanding the FUEL Strategy

- **Supports: [Stage of writing, e.g., Revising/Editing]:** Planning, Drafting, and Revising (Self-Monitoring).
- **Applies To: [Genres, e.g., All Genres / Informational Writing]:** Informational Writing, Argumentative/Persuasive Writing, Text-Based Response (Cross-Curricular).
- **Grade Levels: [Grade Range, e.g., Grades 2–12]:** Primarily Grades 4–9.



# Suggestions for Implementation

**Teach each step Explicitly:** Before expecting independence, dedicate time to teach, model, and practice each component (F, U, E, L) separately.

**Model Frequently:** Use "**think-alouds**" to demonstrate how to apply each part of **FUEL** in real-time, especially when finding and linking evidence.

**Use Visual Cues:** Incorporate **color-coding** on anchor charts and student work to help visual learners organize the different parts of the paragraph.

**Promote Self-Monitoring:** Encourage students to use the **FUEL** acronym as a **checklist** to review and revise their own work for completeness.

**Differentiate Support:** Provide **sentence starters** and structured graphic organizers to scaffold the process for students with varying needs.



# Common Pitfalls to Avoid

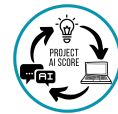
**Don't Skip Modeling:** Students, particularly those with LDs, need to see and hear the thinking process (metacognition) for finding evidence and linking ideas.

**Don't Treat It as a Rigid Formula:** **FUEL** is a flexible organizational structure, not a script; encourage students to add their own voice and vary sentence structure.

**Don't Rush to Independence:** Ensure students have mastered one step before moving on, using a gradual release of control rather than immediate full paragraph assignments.

**Don't Ignore the "Link" Step (L):** Skipping the final step results in underdeveloped paragraphs that end abruptly. The "L" step is critical for higher-order thinking and cohesion.

**Don't Assume Knowledge:** Do not assume students know how to locate and integrate evidence (E) without explicit, guided practice.



# Troubleshooting

Issue/Challenge	What to Do
Student's skip the (U) Understanding Step	Model adding explanations or background info before introducing evidence.
Evidence (E) is weak, vague, or missing.	Explicitly teach how to find and integrate strong quotes, data, or examples from the text.
Students repeat evidence in the "Link" (L) sentence.	Model how to connect the evidence back to the main idea or topic sentence (F).
Paragraphs feel robotic or overly formulaic.	Encourage variation in sentence starters; try combining two <b>FUEL</b> steps into one strong sentence.
Students forget one or more steps.	Use a visual checklist or a structured <b>FUEL</b> graphic organizer during the drafting phase.



# Adapting FUEL for ALL learners

- **Sentence Starters (Scaffolds):** Provide fill-in-the-blank frames for each step (e.g., "One reason is...", "This means that...", "For example...", "This shows...").
- **Visual Graphic Organizers:** Use a structured organizer with clear boxes for F, U, E, and L, using icons (🧠 for Understanding, 📖 for Evidence) to aid memory and sequencing.
- **Chunking:** Break the paragraph into manageable daily tasks (e.g., Day 1: Write F and U; Day 2: Find and draft E; Day 3: Write L and Revise).
- **Collaborative Practice:** Allow brainstorming and initial drafting in pairs or small groups to reduce initiation difficulty and anxiety.
- **Word Banks:** Provide content-specific vocabulary and general academic language/transition words to support expression for ELLs and students with language-based disabilities.
- **Self-Correction Checklist:** Give students a concise **FUEL** checklist to use for self-assessment, fostering greater independence and self-regulation.



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