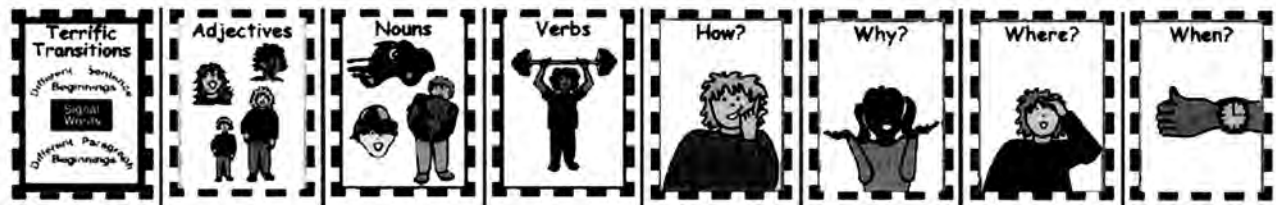


# The Sentence Builder

T S 



The Indians went many places.

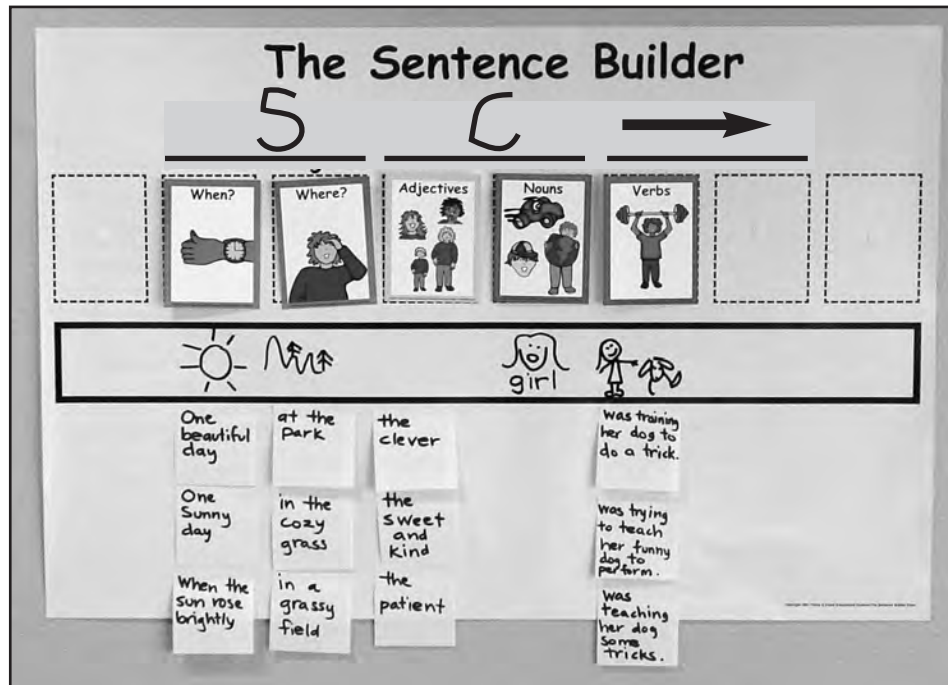
Subsequently,	nomadic	Native Americans	followed the bison	like a mother following a toddler	to survive	across the prairie	all year long	
Since the buffalo provided food and shelter,	fearless		hunted the creatures			closely		through the grassy plains
	brave							

**Purpose:** The Sentence Builder chart is used to demonstrate many strategies and skills for sophisticated sentence writing. This tool may be used to build elaborate, well-developed topic sentences/thesis statements, story openings, and powerful sentences with transitions.

**Making the Sentence Builder:** There are eight colorful Sentence Builder Cards that include the parts of speech (adjectives, nouns and verbs), modifiers (how, why, where, and when), and Terrific Transitions (transition words to connect sentences or signal words to cue the reader that a new sentence or paragraph is beginning). Laminate the Sentence Builder Chart. Put a Velcro button inside each of the dotted line boxes on the chart, and then the matching buttons on the back of each Velcro card.

**Directions:** The following few pages include steps to build story openings for a narrative; a topic sentence or thesis statement for expository writing; and also powerful sentences with transitions.

# The Sentence Builder



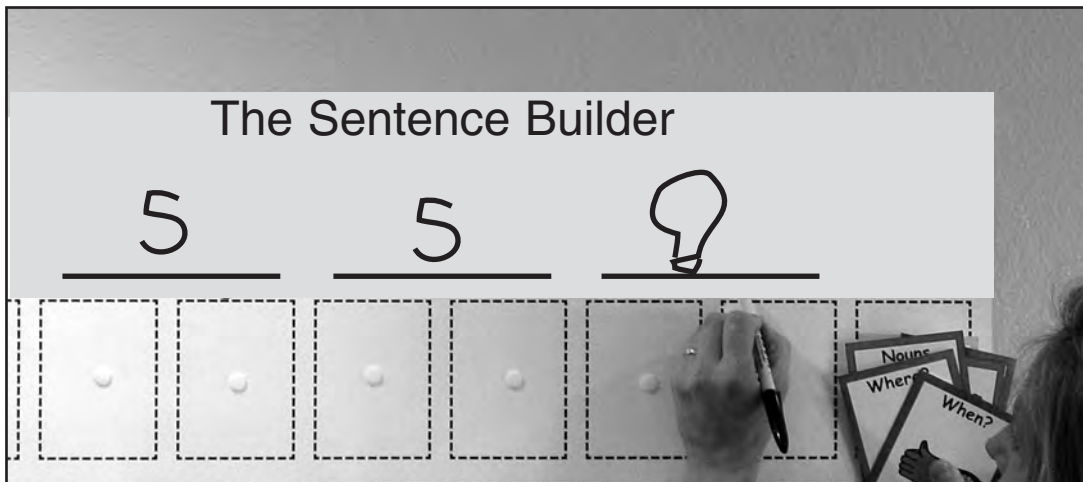
## Building a Story Opening:

Begin with a blank chart and follow the steps:

- Step 1:** At the top of the chart on the three lines (see photo), write the secret formula “S, C, arrow”, the necessary components for a story opening. The “S” is for setting (when and where). The “C” is for character (Who is driving the action?). The “arrow” is for action (What is the character doing? or What happened to the character?).
- Step 2:** Adhere the Velcro cards. Under “Setting” stick the “when” and “where” cards; Under “Character” stick the “adjective and noun” cards; Under the “arrow” stick the “verb” card.
- Step 3:** Under each of the cards draw a simple picture for each part of the story opening (e.g., a sun for when).
- Step 4:** On sticky paper, write down words or phrases for each drawing (e.g., *one sunny day* for the sun). After filling the bottom of the chart with many sticky notes, then move different “when, where, adjective, and verb” sticky papers from the columns on the chart to the black rectangle to build a sophisticated story opening sentence.

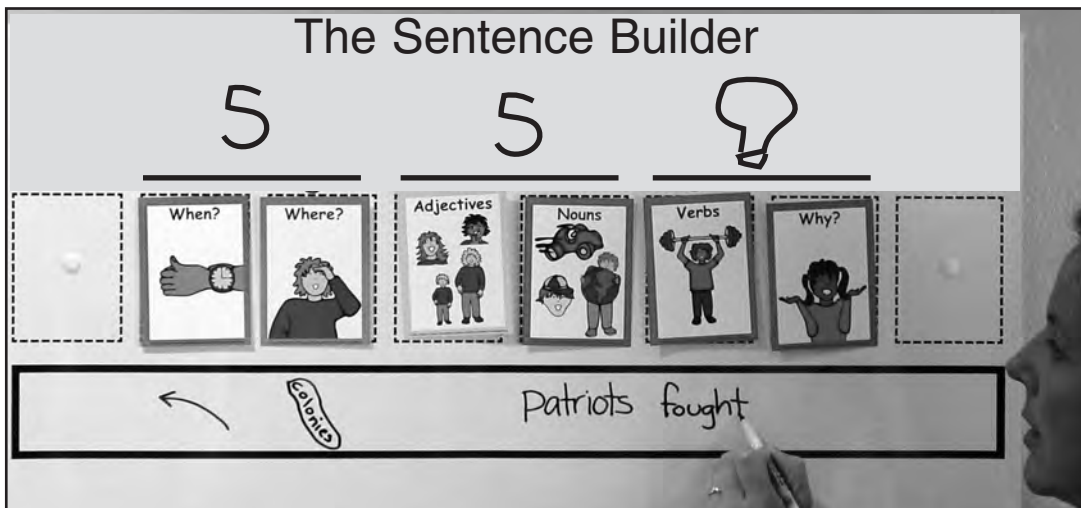
For Example, using the sticky papers from the chart (see photo), the following story opening was formed: *One beautiful day in a grassy field, a sweet and kind girl was training her dog to do a new trick.*

# The Sentence Builder



**Building a Topic Sentence/Thesis Statement:**  
**Begin with a blank chart and follow the steps:**

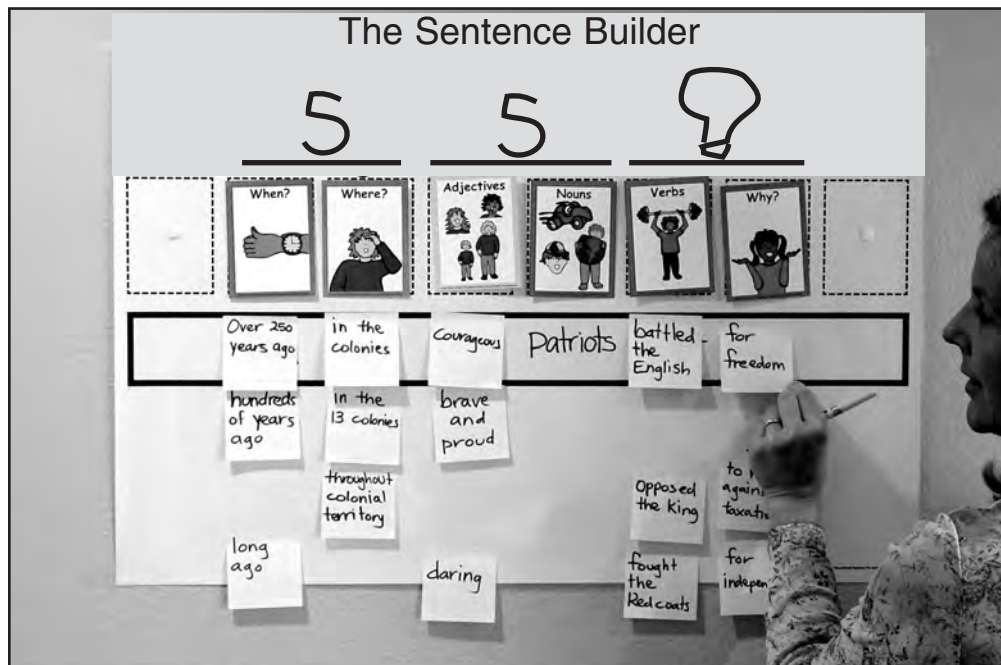
**Step 1:** At the top of the chart (see photo above), write “S, S, light bulb”, the secret formula or necessary components for a topic sentence or thesis statement. The first “S” is for setting (when and where). The second “S” is for subject (Who or what is the information about?). The “light bulb” is for the big idea (What about the subject and why is it important?).



**Step 2:** Adhere the colorful Velcro cards. Under setting stick the “when and where” cards; Under subject stick the “adjective and noun” cards; Under “big idea” stick the “verb and why” cards. Please note: Setting is optional for a topic sentence/thesis statement. Not all informational sentences have when or where words or phrases.

**Step 3:** Under each of the cards draw a simple picture or key words for each part of the topic sentence/thesis statement.

# The Sentence Builder



## Building a Topic Sentence/Thesis Statement (continued):

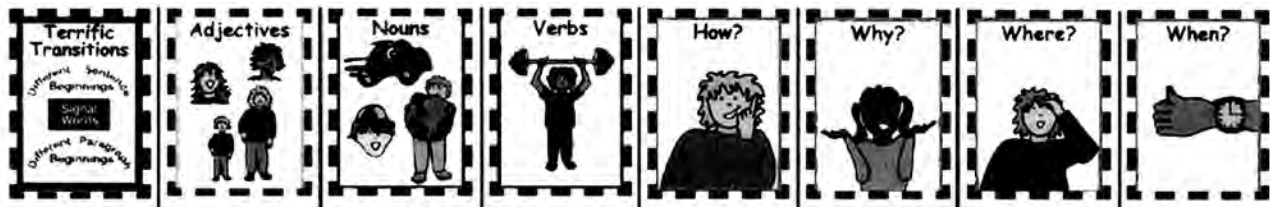
**Step 4:** On sticky paper, write down words or phrases for each drawing (e.g., *over three-hundred years ago*). After filling the bottom of the chart with many sticky notes, then move different “when, where, adjective, verb, and why” sticky papers from the columns on the chart to the black rectangle to build a sophisticated topic sentence or thesis statement.

For Example, using the sticky papers from the chart (see photo), the following topic sentence was formed: *Over three-hundred years ago in the colonies, courageous patriots fought for freedom.*

**Please Note:** Topic sentences are in paragraphs. The topic sentence tells the reader what the entire paragraph is about. The thesis statement is for multiple paragraphs. It is the statement that tells the reader what the entire paper is about.

# The Sentence Builder

T S 



The Indians went many places.

Subsequently,	nomadic		followed the bison				
		Native Americans		like a mother following a toddler	to survive	across the prairie	all year long
Since the buffalo provided food and shelter,	fearless		hunted the creatures				
	brave			closely		through the grassy plains	

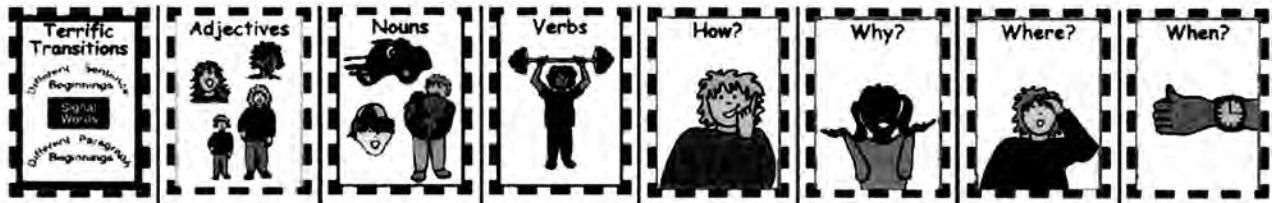
**Building a Powerful Sentence with a Transition for expository writing:**  
**Begin with a blank chart and follow the steps:**

- Step 1:** At the top of the chart (see picture), write the secret formula “T, S, light bulb”, the necessary components for a powerful informational sentence with a transition. The “T” is for transition (Special words that move the reader from one idea to the next idea); The “S” is for subject (Who or what is the information about?); and the “light bulb” is for the big idea (What about the subject? What information does the reader need to know?).
- Step 2:** Adhere the Velcro cards. Under “Transition” stick the “Terrific Transitions” card; Under “Subject” stick the “adjective and noun” cards; Under the “light bulb” stick the “verb” and “how, why, where, and when” cards.
- Step 3:** Under each of the cards write key words or draw a simple picture for each part of the topic sentence/thesis statement (e.g., “Indians” for the “subject” or “noun”).

# The Sentence Builder

T

S



Subsequently,	the fearless	Native Americans	followed the bison			across the plains	
Subsequently,	nomadic		followed the bison			across the prairie	
Since the buffalo provided food and shelter,	fearless	Native Americans	hunted the creatures	like a mother following a toddler	to survive		all year long
	brave			closely		through the grassy plains	

## Building a Powerful Sentence with a Transition for expository writing (continued):

**Step 4:** On sticky paper, write down words or phrases for each key word or drawing (e.g., *Subsequently* for the “transition”). After filling the bottom of the chart with many sticky notes, then move some of the the different sticky papers from the columns on the chart to the black rectangle to build a sophisticated transition sentence.

For Example, using the sticky papers from the chart (see above), the following transition sentence was formed: *Subsequently, the fearless Native Americans followed the bison across the plains.*

**Please Note:** Notice the sticky papers with verbs include the direct object. Underline the verb on the sticky paper, so students are not confused which word is the verb.