

Modifying by level of thinking

Example: Tiered paragraph assignment

Pre-assessment: Writing sample; three-paragraph minimum

Tier 1: Complete assignment on how to write a paragraph from the text and teacher's lesson.

Tier 2: Write a story or nonfiction essay using at least seven paragraphs. Be ready to justify the number of sentences you use and the order of the paragraphs as the best choice.

Tier 3: Using a book you are reading or have read, analyze the paragraphs on three to four pages in the following ways:

- Average number of sentences per paragraph: _____
- Average number of words per paragraph: _____
- The order of the sentences.

Now do the same for another book by the same author. Using a Venn diagram, compare the paragraphs in the two books. Be ready to answer the following questions with evidence:

- Do specific authors use certain patterns in writing paragraphs?
What are those patterns?
- What rules would you suggest for writing good paragraphs?

Choose the paragraph from your reading that you would nominate as the best-written paragraph, and the one you would consider the worst-written. Show them to at least five friends. Can they tell which is your choice for best?

Present your data as a graph or paragraph.