Meaningful Sentences

Sentences can often be written in a very simple form and not demonstrate student understanding of the specific vocabulary used. Therefore, it is recommended that all students write sentences in which at least 3 or 4 of the questions above can be answered within the structure of their sentence.

Non-Example
(Who can tell if they understand the vocabulary?
There’s not enough information.)

This is

- a table.
- scintillating.
- a preposition.
- disgusting.
- terrific!

Example
(We can see what they understand within the sentence via the relationship of ideas.)

We eat Thanksgiving dinner at the big table so our family can sit together.

Next Steps

- Feedback: Review the relationship(s) of ideas within their sentences to demonstrate where they are successful and where they need to clarify their ideas/understanding.

- Training: Train your students to be able to describe the relationship(s) of ideas with the teacher and/or their peers.

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1 Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners, from Success for All, page 266