

8. Discovering the Forms in Published Passages: Form Analytics

Any passage lends itself to *Form Analytics*.

A. Full Passage Inspection

Students find passages in their favorite novels, books, websites, magazine, or newspaper. The entire passage will be used. A passage can be of any specified length – from a page or two to a whole chapter.

The teacher should explain to the students that they must list the passage and its individual sentences – each one analyzed according to the forms used – and hand in their paper at the assigned time.

The ***teacher can then use all the work of the students on a subsequent test*** or exam with very little extra work. The teacher needs to collect and collate the best passages, cut and paste them together eliminating the endnotes and footnotes and numerical index notations, and type at the top: *Identify all the sentence forms in the following passage(s)*.

This system is **infinitely renewable**, replicable, and relieves the teacher of a lot of preparation. It also motivates the students: students pay attention when told that something they do may later show up on a test or exam.

Important Procedural Tip When Doing Form Analytics

When doing Form Analytics, pick the higher, more evolved form.

Practice Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty

by Adair Lara and taken from *A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul* (the first nine paragraphs are excerpted)

It's an underground slogan that's spreading across the nation.

It's a crispy winter day in San Francisco. A woman in a red Honda, Christmas presents piled high in the back, drives up to the Bay Bridge tollbooth. "I'm paying for myself, and for the six cars behind me," she says with a smile, handing over seven commuter tickets.

One after another, the next six drivers arrive at the tollbooth, dollars in hand, only to be told, "Some lady up ahead already paid your fare. Have a nice day."

"The woman in the Honda, it turned out, had read something on an index card taped to a friend's refrigerator: "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty." The phrase seemed to leap out at her, and she copied it down.

Judy Foreman spotted the same phrase spray-painted on a warehouse wall a hundred miles from her home. When it stayed on her mind for days, she gave up and drove all the way back to copy it down. "I thought it was incredibly beautiful," she said, explaining why she's taken to writing it at the bottom of all her letters, "like a message from above."

Her husband, Frank, liked the phrase so much that he put it up on the classroom wall for his seventh-graders, one of whom was the daughter of a local columnist. The columnist put it in the paper, admitting that though she liked it, she didn't know where it came from or what it really meant.

Two days later, she heard from Anne Herbert. Tall, blonde and forty, Herbert lives in Marin, one of the country's ten richest counties, where she house-sits, takes odd jobs, gets by. It was in a Sausalito restaurant that Herbert jotted the phrase down on a paper placement, after turning it around in her mind for days.

"That's wonderful!" a man sitting nearby said, and copied it down carefully on his own placemat.

"Here's the idea," Herbert says. "Anything you think there should be more of, do it randomly."

Below is a sample of Form Analytics on the first part of the same story.

FORM ANALYTICS IN THE WORKS OF PUBLISHED OR CLASSIC WRITERS	
Practice Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty by Adair Lara and taken from <u><i>A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul</i></u> (excerpted paragraphs)	
Para-graph	Sentence Form Analytics
1	It's an underground slogan that's spreading across the nation. RN that: ... <u><i>that's spreading across the nation</i></u>
2	It's a crispy winter day in San Francisco. Fc: ... <u><i>in San Francisco</i></u>
	A woman in a red Honda, Christmas presents piled high in the back, drives up to the Bay Bridge tollbooth. MS-absolute: ..., <u><i>Christmas presents piled high in the back,</i></u> V past participle: <u><i>piled</i></u>
3	"I'm paying for myself, and for the six cars behind me," she says with a smile, handing over seven commuter tickets. Fc with interrupter: " <u><i>I'm...myself, and for the ...behind me.</i></u> " ES verbal phrase: ..., <u><i>handing over seven commuter tickets...</i></u> Anecdotal interrupter/recorder: <u><i>she says with a smile</i></u>
	One after another, the next six drivers arrive at the tollbooth, dollars in hand, only to be told, "Some lady up ahead already paid your fare. Have a nice day." BS-noun phrase: <u><i>one after another</i></u> MS noun phrase normal: <u><i>dollars in hand</i></u> ADD Beginning Verb: <u><i>Have...</i></u>
4	"The woman in the Honda, it turned out, had read something on an index card taped to a friend's refrigerator: "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty." MS Anecdotal Interrupter: <u><i>it turned out</i></u> V past participle: <u><i>taped</i></u> ADD BV: <u><i>Practice ...</i></u> S A and B: <u><i>random kindness and senseless acts...</i></u> ADD noun of: <u><i>acts of beauty</i></u> ADD compound direct object <u><i>random kindness and senseless acts...</i></u>
	The phrase seemed to leap out at her, and she copied it down. V infinitive <u><i>to leap out</i></u> CC-and <u><i>The phrase... her, and she copied it down.</i></u>

	<p>Judy Foreman spotted the same phrase spray-painted on a warehouse wall a hundred miles from her home.</p> <p>ES verbal extended phrase <u>spray-painted on a warehouse wall a hundred miles from her home</u></p>
5	<p>When it stayed on her mind for days, she gave up and drove all the way back to copy it down.</p> <p>AC when: <u>when it stayed on her mind for days</u></p> <p>Fc and <u>she gave up and drove all the way back to copy it down</u></p> <p>V infinitive <u>to copy it down</u></p>
	<p>“I thought it was incredibly beautiful,” she said, explaining why she’s taken to writing it at the bottom of all her letters, “like a message from above.”</p> <p>RN Omitted Clause <u>I thought [that] it was incredibly beautiful</u></p> <p>RN why ...<u>why she’s taken to writing it at the bottom of all her letters</u></p> <p>MS verbal string <u>explaining why she’s taken to writing it at the bottom of all her letters</u></p> <p>Verbal gerund <u>writing</u></p> <p>ES-prepositional phrase <u>like a message from above</u></p> <p>Anecdotal interrupter/recorder: <u>she said</u></p>
6	<p>Her husband, Frank, liked the phrase so much that he put it up on the classroom wall for his seventh-graders, one of whom was the daughter of a local columnist.</p> <p>MS-appositive <u>Frank</u></p> <p>AC – so that <u>so much that he put it up on the classroom wall for his seventh-graders</u></p> <p>ES appositive string <u>one of whom was the daughter of a local columnist</u></p>
	<p>The columnist put it in the paper, admitting that though she liked it, she didn’t know where it came from or what it really meant.</p> <p>ES verbal extended phrase <u>admitting that though she liked it, she didn’t know where it came from or what it really meant</u></p> <p>AC though <u>though she liked it</u></p> <p>RN where <u>where it came from</u></p> <p>RN what <u>what it really meant</u></p>
7	<p>Two days later, she heard from Anne Herbert.</p> <p>BS- adverb string <u>Two days later</u></p>

	<p>Tall, blonde and forty, Herbert lives in Marin, one of the country's ten richest counties, where she house-sits, takes odd jobs, gets by.</p> <p>S-A,B and C <i>Tall, blonde and forty</i></p> <p>MS appositive string <i>one of the country's ten richest counties</i></p> <p>ES RN clause <i>where she house-sits, takes odd jobs, gets by</i></p> <p>S-A,B,C <i>house-sits, takes odd jobs, gets by</i></p>
	<p>It was in a Sausalito restaurant that Herbert jotted the phrase down on a paper placement, after turning it around in her mind for days.</p> <p>RN that <i>that Herbert jotted the phrase down on a paper placement</i></p> <p>ES prepositional extended phrase <i>after turning it around in her mind for days</i></p>
8	<p>"That's wonderful!" a man sitting nearby said, and copied it down carefully on his own placemat.</p> <p>F descriptor (distant) <i>That's wonderful</i></p> <p>V present participle <i>sitting nearby</i></p> <p>ADD compound verb <i>...said, and copied ... down...</i></p>
9	<p>"Here's the idea," Herbert says.</p> <p>ADD inversion MV+-S <i>Here's the idea</i></p> <p>F subject <i>Herbert says</i></p>
	<p>"Anything you think there should be more of, do it randomly."</p> <p>RN missing conjunction <i>Anything [that] you think [that] there should be more</i></p> <p>BS appositive string <i>Anything you think there should be more of</i></p> <p>Fo <i>do it randomly</i></p>