DNA of Writing

Cheryl H. Ellis
Instructional Specialist

ZB Zaner-Bloser
DNA:

the fundamental and distinctive characteristics or qualities of someone or something, especially when regarded as unchangeable
Wine

- Body
- Color
- Bouquet
- Complexity
- Character
- Finish
Art

- Lines
- Texture
- Shape
- Proportion
- Rhythm
- Movement
Flip, Multiply, Reduce

Dividing fractions is so easy it makes me want to flip! And that's exactly how you start. Take the second fraction, and invert it. Inverting the second fraction basically means turning it upside down, so that the numerator and denominator switch places. After that, it's a snap! Just multiply the top number of the first fraction and the top number of the inverted second fraction to get the numerator (top number) of your answer. Then multiply the bottom number of the first fraction and the bottom number of the inverted second fraction to get the denominator (bottom number) of your answer.

You might think you're done now, but hold your horses! You have to look at your answer and see if it can be reduced. It's not too hard if you know what to do. Just find the greatest common factor for the numerator and denominator of your answer (that's the biggest
Dividing fractions is so easy it makes me want to flip! And that's exactly how you start: Take the second fraction, and invert it. Inverting the second fraction basically means turning it upside down, so that the numerator and denominator switch places. After that, it's a snap! Just multiply the top number of the first fraction and the top number of the inverted second fraction to get the numerator (top number) of your answer. Then multiply the bottom number of the first fraction and the bottom number of the inverted second fraction to get the denominator (bottom number) of your answer.
You might think you're done now, but hold your horses. You have to look at your answer and see if it can be reduced! It's not too hard if you know what to do. Just find the greatest common factor for the numerator and denominator of your answer (that's the biggest number that goes evenly into both of them). Divide the numerator and denominator by this GCF to simplify. If there isn't a number that goes evenly into both, then your fraction is already in its simplest form - and you're done! So when it comes time to divide fractions, remember this rule: Just flip out, multiply your success, and reduce your stress!
Writing DNA

- Ideas
- Organization
- Word Choice
- Sentence Fluency
- Conventions
- Voice
Ideas

Clear, unique, and interesting thoughts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPTH CHART</th>
<th>See</th>
<th>Hear</th>
<th>Smell</th>
<th>Taste</th>
<th>Feel (touch)</th>
<th>Feel (emotion)</th>
<th>Little Known Fact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>When</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPT CHART</td>
<td>See</td>
<td>Hear</td>
<td>Smell</td>
<td>Taste</td>
<td>Feel (touch)</td>
<td>Feel (emotion)</td>
<td>Little Known Fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My husband, Larry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine tasting tour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>When</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring day in April</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Along the Natchez Trace</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Why</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPTH CHART</td>
<td>See</td>
<td>Hear</td>
<td>Smell</td>
<td>Taste</td>
<td>Feel (touch)</td>
<td>Feel (emotion)</td>
<td>Little Known Fact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>Gray hair, blue polo shirt, favorite cargo shorts</td>
<td>Yummy sounds, singing along with the radio</td>
<td>Freshly washed shirt – BOUNCE</td>
<td>Variety of citrus flavors, sweet like grape juice</td>
<td>Coolness of the wine glass</td>
<td>Anticipation of new experiences - Relaxed</td>
<td>Newbie to wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What</td>
<td>Stacks of wine bottles, wine gift items</td>
<td>Descriptions of how the wine was made</td>
<td>Different fragrances from the wines - sweet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Excitement - but also a feeling of ignorance</td>
<td>Discerning the taste isn’t that easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>Pine trees, curvy highway, motorcyclists, Wind whistling through the sun roof, country music on the radio</td>
<td></td>
<td>Freshness of a spring day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slight coolness in the shade</td>
<td>Contentment - being with Larry, no pressures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grinder’s Switch Winery has a wine named after Minnie Pearl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Who**
My husband, Larry

**What**
Wine tasting tour

**When**
Spring day in April

**Where**
Along the Natchez Trace

**Why**

**How**
Organization

Logical structure including lead, conclusion & transitions.
Text Structures

Narrative
- Beginning
- Event 2
- Event 3
- Conclusion

Informative/Explanatory
- Main Idea
  - Supporting detail
  - Supporting detail
- Main Idea
  - Supporting detail
  - Supporting detail

Opinion Argument
- Opinion
Once upon a time

- Quote
- Question
- Startling fact
- Humor
- Flashback
Interesting

Conclusions

• Morale
• Personal reflection
• Unexpected turn
• Call to action

The End
Word Choice

Best words chosen to convey the message to the audience.
My pet westie, “Andy”
Amber went into the house.

- Amber raced into the house.
- Amber stormed into the house.
- Amber tip-toed into the house.
- Amber hobbled into the house.
Went Said
Sentence Fluency

Variation in sentence beginnings & sentence lengths to create a rhythm & flow.
Come Visit Neptune!

**Declarative**

Neptune is like a giant blue marble spinning in the vacuum of space. **Why** is it blue? **Scientists** think it's because of all the methane that fills Neptune's atmosphere. **If** you dive below the atmosphere, you'll find something else: ammonia. **Ammonia** is a poisonous gas. **You** might recognize ammonia as one of the key ingredients in your mother's floor cleaner.

**Imperative**

Imagine a place where a deep breath filled your lungs with that stuff! **Despite** its poisonous atmosphere, there is something on Neptune that is familiar to visitors from Earth: Neptune has a rocky core. **What** a comfort. While you're choking on the poisonous air, you'll at least have a solid place to stand.

**Interrogative**

**Why** is it blue? **Scientists** think it's because of all the methane that fills Neptune's atmosphere. **If** you dive below the atmosphere, you'll find something else: ammonia. **Ammonia** is a poisonous gas.
Conventions

Grammar, usage, mechanics, legibility & appearance
A woman without her man is nothing.
A woman: without her, man is nothing.
The personality, attitude, and enthusiasm of the author reaching out to the audience for a specific purpose.
Focus on Voice: Contributing Traits

When you change one of these traits...

You often affect this one!
Writing DNA

Six Traits

- Ideas
- Organization
- Word Choice
- Sentence Fluency
- Conventions
- Voice