

Classified Writing

Grade Level: 4-12

Subject Area: Language Arts

Objective: To practice concise writing skills

Materials Needed:

- Today's Newspaper
- Worksheet on the next page

Directions:

1. Direct your class to the classified advertisements in today's newspaper.
2. Have them create a list of the characteristics of a good classified ad. Record them on the board or overhead.
3. Talk about the types of words and abbreviations used in the classified ads.
4. Distribute the worksheet found on the next page. Tell them these are some very poorly written classified ads.
5. Ask the students to rewrite each ad using no more than the number of words listed at the end of each ad.

Sharing:

- Let your students post their revised ads on a bulletin board.
- Ask students to volunteer to read their rewritten ad.
- Post the new ads in the school hallway.

Extension:

- Let your students write classified ads to sell something they own.
- Ask your students to write a classified ad that might have been written by a person from history or a story your class is reading.

Classified Advertisements

(Concise Writing)

1. My wife and I are very happy about an event in our family recently. My wife, whose name is Dale, gave birth to a baby. This occurred at Grace Hospital. The baby is a girl and we have named her Stephany Violet. Incidentally, my first name is Stanley. Stephany weighed 6lbs. 4 ox. But, of course we expect she will put on weight as she grows. She was born on August 2, 1999. My last name is Wilson. (Revised ad should contain no more than 26 words.)
2. My dad says he's heard enough of my 1989 motorcycle. I have decided discretion is the better part of valor and I'm going to sell it before he goes right through the ceiling. I'm sorry to see it go because I've partly customized it and it has many extra parts. It is a Triumph. I hope to get \$1,000 for it but I don't think I will. My telephone number is 945-2579 if you're interested. (13 words)
3. I have a 1985 car, believe it or not. It is not exactly in what you would call mint condition. In fact, it needs a little work to put it in satisfactory shape. It's a Chevy. I'll take whatever I can get for it. I hope to get \$250. My name is Richard but my friends call me Rick. If you want to buy this car, call me at 948-9867 at 7 p.m. Oh yes, the car has two doors. (18 words)
4. If you were a retired teacher as I am and had this old desk around, what would you do with it? Sell it? That's what I'm hoping to do. I want \$50 for it. It comes with a chair. Of course if I can't get \$50 for it, I'll take what I can get. Call me at 256-9074. (9 words)
5. There are three of us children, see? Our father's name is Daddy. Our names are Kara, John and Edward. Of course, that lets the cat out of the bag and you recognize us now, don't you? Well, we just wanted to wish you a happy birthday, Ma Squaw. And we like to say we love you.
6. I wish now I had put Angel's tags on her before I put her out in the yard. Well, no use crying over spilled milk. She's gone. But I want her back. You would want your German Shepherd back, wouldn't you? She disappeared near George Avenue. If you have found her, please call me at 945-8241. (15 words)