

case study:

WILSON, A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

Wilson was a 7th grade student who was failing his classes and getting into trouble after school. Below are excerpts from his writing before his teacher was trained in The WEX Method™, and three weeks after the training.

Date: April 26

Describe a Moment of Action From the Game

Writing Sample #1

get back on Drolando sayed as I look at the person coming to me I look left and right two make suer No body is about to pick me then I looked back at him then I see in his eye that he is about to pass the ball all I am thinking is to jump as High as I can and block the pass so I close my eyes and took one big jump and pop I did it, I jump high eneve to block the pass so then we take the ball on a 3-1 fast brack rolando pass the ball to me and I pass the ball to trebon he pass the ball back to rolando rolando took a shoot and he scord

At first Wilson's writing stands out because it is riddled with mechanical errors, most noticeably the lack of punctuation. However, his teacher noticed and emphasized many writing strategies that Wilson was using well: dialogue, sentence variety, focus. In her feedback, she pointed out the power of these strategies and asked him to continue using them while working on just one skill: end punctuation. Empowered by his teacher's specific feedback and armed with a clear, achievable goal, Wilson responded.

Date: May 12

Write About a Moment During a Memorable Haircut

Writing Sample #3

The last time I got a hair cut I had to take my anoiiing little brother so he could get one to. When we got to the barber shop I told my little brother Malik to stay in the shop. So I could run accors the street to get some juice for my mom. When I got back he was goin. I leved the barber shop to look for my brother and when I came back. He was wright there. And I told him "If you do that agin I going to tale mom. So instead of sitting there and saying oky he copyed every word that came out of my mouth. I felt like hitting him then POW!!! I hit him. He started to cry like a bady so I gaive him a hug.

After only 3 weeks of WEX, Wilson's punctuation improves dramatically. He is now able to make more of an impact on the reader because his writing is much more clear and engaging.

"The WEX program removes so many of the barriers children face when it comes to writing – it is low stress, high impact (in terms of positive results that really do carry over). I cannot imagine going back to the old way I used to teach writing!"

Melissa, Grade 6 Teacher, MA