



## Broward County Public Schools Videoconference

**Writing Trait:** Ideas

**Lesson:** How I Spent My Summer Vacation

**Instructor:** Evelyn Nelson  
BECON Distance Learning Teacher

**Grade Level:** Grade Four

**Sunshine State Standards:** LA.B.1, MU.D.1, MU.E.1, VA.A.1, VA.B.1, and VA.E.1

**Benchmarks:** LA.B.1.2.1, MU.D.1.2.3, MU.E.1.3.1, VA.A.1.2.1, VA.B.1.2.1, and VA.E.1.2.3

**Infusion Points:** Language Arts, Music, and Visual Art

**Objective(s):**

1. Students will prepare for writing by focusing on a central idea and listing supporting details.
2. Students will use perceptual skills and appropriate terminology to evaluate listening selections.
3. Students will understand the relationship between music and the visual arts and how each expresses events, emotions, and ideas.
4. Students will recognize contributions that an art museum makes to a community.

### LITERATURE EMPHASIS:

**Book Title:** How I Spent My Summer Vacation

**Author and Illustrator:** Mark Teague

**Publisher:** Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, NY. (2000)

**Story Summary:** A schoolboy tells his class about his summer vacation, during which he joined a group of cowboys and stopped a cattle stampede.

**Book Title:** Eyewitness: Cowboy

**Author:** David H. Murdoch & David Murcoch **Illustrator:** Geoff Brightling

**Publisher:** DK Publishing, Inc., New York, NY. (2000)

**Story Summary:** This book offers an informative look at the lives of cowboys from around the world. Real-life photographs of horses, cattle, branding irons, and lariats offer a unique view of life on the range.

### MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Buckaroo Holiday*, from Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*. Performed in 1960 by the New York Philharmonic under the direction of Leonard Bernstein. Produced by Sony Music Entertainment, Inc, USA. (1992)

## ACTIVITIES:

- Introduction to the Six Traits Writing Rubric (focus on *IDEAS*)
- The videoconference instructor will read How I Spent My Summer Vacation.
  - Students will then be asked to discuss whether or not they think this story is true.
- Next, the instructor will explain that cowboys still exist today and some of their jobs are the same as 100 years ago. Excerpts from Eyewitness: Cowboy will be shared.
- The instructor will introduce students to artists and artwork that capture the essence of cowboy life.
  - Buffalo Bill Historical Center: Artists: Charles M. Russell, Frederic S. Remington, Charles J. Belden, and Edgar S. Paxson
  - Trailside Galleries: A variety of oil paintings. **The teacher will play *Buckaroo Holiday*, from Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*, while students look at the artwork.**
- Students will share their impressions of why Copland named his piece after a buckaroo (buckaroo means: cowboy).
- Instructor will share pictures from her trip to Colorado and Wyoming
  - Then the instructor will model the way to write about the most important events on the vacation using the "Idea Map."

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

- Students list the things they did over their summer vacation.
- Next students will select three things they liked the best or were the most exciting events.
- Students will use the "Idea Map" to write GENERAL INFO, list some "juicy" DETAILS, and "show it" by MAKING IT PERSONAL.....make the details come alive!

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Paper and pencil for each student
- "Idea Map" Materials for teachers

## LESSON EXTENSION:

**Related Website:** 6 + 1 Writing Traits Rubric  
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory  
<http://www.nwrel.org/assessment/pdfRubrics/6plus1traits.PDF>

Six Traits of Writing by the Edina Public School  
Great writing information for students and teachers.  
<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/concord/teacherlinks/sixtraits/sixtraits.html>