

Writing Logs - Wordsmiths

Each week you should look for an example of something you have read that stands out to you. The log is not about content, so you shouldn't write about what the writing says. Instead, you should write about the writing itself. You can look for spelling or punctuation mistakes in books or on signs or billboards, clever use of words, misused words, really good descriptions or explanations (or really bad ones). You can use almost anything for a source.

Directions:

For each page you read, make an entry in your log, noting something specific the writer has done, why it works (or doesn't), and when you might want to use (or avoid) the same technique. If you want to make a copy of the page of text instead of copying the sentence, you can do that and attach it to your log with the examples marked. Otherwise, a log entry should look like this:

Source: *Calvin and Hobbes: The Complete Collection* by Bill Watterson

Passage:



What Works: Most of the time, it really bugs me when people take words and turn them into other parts of speech, like when Hannah says she was “fangirling” about the new Marvel movie or her t-shirt that says “Can’t adult today”. This particular example of “access” though makes more sense, maybe just because it has been around longer and I’ve gotten used to it.

Using It: It depends on how formal/informal the writing is. If it is more personal, then it can actually be fun and funny – as long as my audience gets it – but I can’t do this in a formal essay.