



WORK
SMARTER,
NOT HARDER

Using ChatGPT to Streamline Your
Teaching





**FOUR WAYS I INTEGRATE
CHATGPT INTO MY
CLASSROOM**

1

Lesson Planning

2

Writing Support

3

Create Engaging Projects

4

Professional Communication





LESSON

PLANNING

How I use it:

- Turn skills (theme, RACE writing, grammar, myths, thesis statements) into interactive activities
- Structure full 45-minute lessons
- Differentiate for struggling vs. advanced writers
- Keep lessons aligned to Nebraska ELA standards



EXAMPLE

Lesson Breakdown (45 Minutes)

1. Hook (5 minutes)

Write on board:

“The classroom was a zoo.”

Ask: Is there actually a lion in here?

What does this REALLY mean?

Explain:

Writers don’t always mean exactly what they say. That’s figurative language – language that creates pictures, feelings, or comparisons.

2. Mini Lesson (10 minutes)

Introduce 5 key types (6th-grade friendly):

Type Definition Example

Simile: Compares using like or as Her smile was as bright as the sun.

Metaphor: Says one thing is another Time is a thief.

Personification: Gives human traits to non-human things The wind whispered.

Hyperbole: Extreme exaggeration I’ve told you a million times!

Onomatopoeia: Sound words Boom! Crash!

Teacher move: Act them out dramatically – they LOVE this.

3. Guided Practice (10 minutes)

Put sentences on the board:

The homework weighed a ton.

The stars danced in the sky.

He ran like lightning.

My backpack is a black hole.

Buzz! The alarm went off.

Students:

Highlight figurative words

Write the type next to it

Go over answers together.

4. Partner Activity – “Make It Figurative!” (10 minutes)

Give partners a boring sentence:

The dog ran fast.

The classroom was loud.

I was tired.

The rain fell.

Task:

Rewrite it using at least TWO types of figurative language.

Example:

The dog ran fast →

The dog shot across the yard like a rocket while the wind cheered him on.

Have 2–3 groups share.

EXAMPLE CONTINUED

5. Independent Practice – Quick Write (8 minutes)

Prompt:

Write 4–5 sentences about your morning using at least 3 different types of figurative language. Underline each one.

6. Exit Ticket (2 minutes)

On a sticky note:

Write one example of figurative language

Label the type

Differentiation

Support:

Provide sentence starters

Give a figurative language reference chart

Challenge:

Have advanced students use 4–5 types

Ask them to explain the meaning of one example

Why This Works

Movement + discussion = engagement

Applies reading skills to writing

Builds imagery skills for narratives and essays

If you'd like, I can also make:

A printable worksheet

A figurative language poster

A game version (like task cards or scoot)

Just say the word!



WRITING

SUPPORT

How I use it:

- Create graphic organizers
- Generate sentence starters
- Model strong vs. weak examples
- Simplify directions
- Build clear rubrics and checklists



EXAMPLE

GOOD Thesis Statements (Strong & Clear)

These:

Make a claim

Are specific

Include the 3 reasons that will be explained

1. School Topic

Good:

Students should have longer recess because it improves focus, reduces stress, and encourages healthy exercise.

Why it works: Clear opinion + 3 reasons.

2. Food Topic

Good:

Pizza is better than burgers because it is more customizable, easier to share, and has a perfect balance of flavors.

Opinion

Not a fact

3 clear points

3. Reading Topic

Good:

Reading every day is important because it builds vocabulary, improves writing skills, and increases imagination.

4. Technology Topic

Good:

Cell phones should not be allowed in class because they distract students, lower grades, and reduce face-to-face communication.

5. Fun Topic

Good:

Dogs make better pets than cats because they are more active, easier to train, and more protective.

EXAMPLE CONTINUED

BAD Thesis Statements (Weak or Wrong)

These are missing parts, too vague, or not opinions.

1. Too Vague

Recess is good.

➔ No reasons. Too short. What about it is good??

2. Not an Opinion (Just a Fact)

Pizza has cheese and sauce.

➔ That's a fact, not an argument.

3. No Direction

There are many reasons why school is important.

➔ WHAT reasons? Be specific!

4. Too Broad

Technology is bad.

➔ What kind? Why? For who?

5. Just a Topic

Dogs and cats are pets.

➔ That's a statement, not an argument.



CREATE ENGAGING PROJECTS



How I use it:

- Fun persuasive topics (food debates, silly arguments)
- Hands-on group projects
- Choice boards
- Themed lessons (Valentine's, Super Bowl, Black History Month, etc.)
- Visual projects like posters, ads, and comics

EXAMPLE

“The Suspense Scene Switch-Up”

Time: 45 minutes

Setup: Groups of 3–4 students

Goal: Build a suspenseful scene using random (and sometimes misleading!) elements

Hook (5 minutes)

Tell students: “Today, you are suspense authors... but you don’t control your story. The suspense controls YOU.”

Then dramatically pull out envelopes/cards.

Step 1: Draw Your Suspense Elements (10 minutes)

Each group draws one card from each category:

Character

A nervous babysitter

A lost hiker

A student staying late after school

A thief with a secret

Setting (Atmosphere!)

An abandoned hospital

A dark forest at night

A locked school hallway

A house during a thunderstorm

Conflict / High Stakes

Something is watching them

They hear footsteps getting closer

The power suddenly goes out

They are being chased

Red Herring (twist!)

It’s just a stray animal... or is it?

A friend appears unexpectedly

A noise that seems dangerous but isn’t

A misleading clue



EXAMPLE CONTINUED

Step 2: Write the Scene (15–20 minutes)

Groups must write a 1–2 paragraph suspense scene that includes:

Atmosphere (describe the setting using senses)

Quick pacing (short, intense sentences at key moments)

Conflict + high stakes

Red herring (something misleading!)

Give them sentence starters if needed:

“The silence felt wrong...”

“Then I heard it...”

“My heart started pounding as...”

Step 3: Perform or Read (10 minutes)

Groups can choose to:

Dramatically read their scene

OR act it out while one person narrates

While listening, the class tries to identify:

What was the red herring?

Where did the pacing speed up?

What created the most suspense?

Optional Competition Twist

Have students vote for:

Most Chilling Scene

Best Suspense Build-Up

Best Plot Twist (Red Herring)



PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

How I use it:

- Draft emails to parents about grades or concerns
- Rephrase sensitive messages professionally
- Write positive student updates
- Communicate with colleagues
- Respond to parent questions clearly and calmly



EXAMPLE

write an email to Billy's parents about his behavior in class. He talks all class and gets little to no work done and is falling behind



Mrs. Smith 13%
Osenp̄ar̄inegmentt

Re: [Name]'s Behavior Today

Dear [Parent],

Your child was very disruptive in class today. Please respond to discuss this issue.

[Sent from my iPhone]

Email



Subject Concern About Billy's Classroom Behavior and Progress

Hi Mr. and Mrs. [Last Name],

I wanted to reach out to share some concerns about Billy's behavior in class and how it is impacting his learning.

Lately, Billy has been talking frequently during instructional time and work periods. This has made it difficult for him to stay focused and complete his assignments. As a result, he is getting little to no work done during class and is beginning to fall behind.

I've provided reminders and redirection in class, but the behavior has continued. I want to make sure we work together to support Billy in getting back on track both behaviorally and academically.

If you could have a conversation with him about the importance of staying focused and using class time productively, that would be greatly appreciated. I will continue to support him here and provide opportunities for him to catch up.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there's anything additional we can do to help Billy succeed.

Thank you for your support,



[Your Name]



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