Hi, Bridge students:

As you write your literary analysis essay, you should try to make your writing more interesting. You can do this by including different types of sentences, such as simple, compound, complex, and compound/complex sentences. Another way to make your writing less choppy and more interesting is to use **appositive**s.

An **appositive** is a word or phrase that identifies a noun or gives additional information about a noun. Usually the word or phrase is either a noun or a noun phrase, but not always. The appositive is usually next to the noun it is identifying or clarifying. It is usually, but not always, right before or after the noun. Using an appositive phrase is a good way to include details without having too many short, choppy sentences. An appositive also adds interest to a sentence.

**Examples**

**Without appositives:**
The monument is large. It is made of stone. It is in South Dakota. It has four presidents’ faces on it. It is called Mt. Rushmore.

**With an appositive:**
Mt. Rushmore, **a large stone monument in South Dakota**, has the faces of four presidents on it.

- The second example combines sentences using the appositive phrase “a large stone monument in South Dakota” to provide a smoother reading experience for the reader.

- Notice how the appositive phrase is punctuated with **commas**.

**MSDE Standards:**

W.1c Use words, phrases, and clauses as well as varied syntax to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships of the ideas in a text.

**Activity 1: Punctuating Appositives**

**REVIEW:** Remember that appositive phrases are always separated from the rest
of the sentence by commas, and the sentence is still complete if they are removed.

**Directions:** Insert commas where they belong in the following sentences.

**Example 1**
San Diego a beautiful city in southern California is a popular place to visit.

With commas:

San Diego, **a beautiful city in southern California**, is a popular place to visit.

**Example 2**
A man with a generous heart Mr Baldwin donated the money for the new library.

With commas:

A man with a generous heart, **Mr Baldwin**, donated the money for the new library.

**Now you try...**
1. Anthony's brother John knows how to play the trombone.
2. He was able to finish his essay using Speak Pro, a new software program.
3. The new school Wagner Elementary is on Main Street.
4. A huge dog with big paws, Bear, was always tracking mud into the house.
5. Corina's white cat, Puff, is soft and fluffy.

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**Activity 2: Combining Sentences Using Appositives**

**REVIEW:** An **appositive** is a word or phrase that identifies a noun or gives additional information about a noun. You can combine several choppy sentences into one sentence with an appositive phrase. This helps your writing flow.
Directions: Combine the sentences below into one sentence that uses as least one appositive.

Example 1

The car was made in 2009. It is a Toyota. It is red. It belongs to Joe.

Joe’s car, a 2009 Toyota, is red.

Example 2

The book was short. It had only 65 pages. Peter finished it quickly.

Peter quickly finished the book, a short one of only 65 pages.

Now you try...

1. The girl is little. She is cute. She is also very smart. Her name is Mary.

2. Vincent van Gogh was a famous artist. He painted “The Starry Night.” He painted it in 1889.

3. We watched a movie. The title was “Peter Pan.” It is my favorite movie.

4. He is my favorite uncle. His name is Bob. He is winning the game.

5. She is Mark’s youngest sister. Her name is Jenny. She got a new kitten.

6. The dog belongs to the neighbors. He often barks at squirrels. He is a collie.

7. The museum is in Paris. It is called the Louvre. It has many famous paintings.

8. He is Pam’s husband. He is strong. His name is Allen.

Activity 3: Finding the Appositives

REVIEW: An appositive phrase provides additional details about a noun or pronoun in a sentence.

Directions: Read the paragraph below. Underline the appositive words and phrases. Write them on the lines at the bottom of the page. Note: The first appositive has been
identified for you.

Example

The florist’s eldest daughter, Lilly, smelled the rose.

Lilly is an appositive.

The local florist and his wife had a sense of humor when naming their children, three daughters and a son. Their eldest daughter, Lilly, didn’t mind being named after a flower. Sylvia, her best friend, agreed that Lilly was a normal girl’s name. By the time their second daughter was born, the florist and his wife, a creative couple, used an unusual name. They named her after the Chrysanthemum, the florist’s favorite flower. Although it was a different name, she didn’t really mind it either. Most of her friends just called her Chrissy. By the time daughter number three arrived, her parents decided to be truly unique. They named her Delphinium. This youngest daughter, a future biologist, was called Della by her friends. When they had their last child, a son, they scratched their heads and didn’t know what to do. They couldn’t think of a good blooming plant name for a boy. Looking around the floral shop, the florist’s eyes alit on something that gave him an idea. The unlikely plant, a cactus, made the florist think of a name more suited for a boy. They brought their newborn son, Saguaro, home and showed him to his three sisters. Saguaro, youngest of the florist’s children, turned out to be a handsome young man with no thorns at all!