

## Elaboration Strategy Example from Barry Lane's *After the End*

### A Writer's Snapshots and Thoughtshots

Barry Lane in his masterful K-12 writing craft book, *After the End: Teaching and Learning Creative Revision*, tells students to look upon crafting specific physical details as if they were photographers using their zoom lens to create detailed close-up shots. These details he describes as snapshots.

**Snapshot:** A snapshot is when a writer zooms in closer and closer on the subject, showing more specific action, smells, sounds, colors, and other physical elements.

Then, when Lane wants to distinguish **details that express feelings or opinions** that express the writer's or narrator's personality and reflections, he uses the term thoughtshots.

**Thoughtshot:** In a personal expository essay, a thoughtshot is the reflection, thought, feeling, or opinion of the author. A thoughtshot in a narrative is a look at what a character is thinking or feeling.

When a teacher defines these terms and provides explicit examples of each type of detail for students, students learn, through oral and written practice, to consciously switch back and forth between the two.

### Grade 4 Sample Paragraph

Whenever I go over to their house we play sports. Football is usually the main one. I remember one time when I was flying down the field and caught a pass from Charlie. I almost lost my breath from the ball hitting my chest, but I managed to make it to the goal line for a touchdown. Another game we play is catch. This is usually when only about three of us are playing together. We get in a circle and throw the ball back and forth. Whoever misses the ball has to run after it and throw it back from where it landed. **Wow! Is that hard to do!** ←  
[This thoughtshot adds voice and personality of the writer.]

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