Sentence Length and Structure Review Presentation

Time: 10 minutes

1. Explain what it means to vary sentence length/structure. Provide an example.
2. Read the Shakespeare passage. You can perform it, or take turns reading each sentence, or divide it up in some other way, as you please.
3. Discuss the sentence lengths in Macbeth’s speech. Why is sentence length important in this scene? How does it impact the meaning of what Macbeth says?
4. When and why is it important to vary sentence length? When might it be a good idea to use a sentence fragment? A long sentence?

# Macbeth, Act V Scene V:

Wherefore was that cry?

**SEYTON**

The queen, my lord, is dead.

**MACBETH**

She should have died hereafter;  
There would have been a time for such a word.  
To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day  
To the last syllable of recorded time,  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.