

Technology and Culture over Time:
Writing #3

Procedure:

- The teacher reads the following text on the history of three inventions, (Students do not have a copy, and so must listen carefully).
- Students try to guess what inventions are being described. After the guesses, show examples of Velcro, etc.
- Students independently write a summary paragraph about the inventions with a topic sentence, at least three supporting sentences, and one clincher sentence.

Post-It-Notes

Art Fry was an employee of the 3-M Co. He always marked his choir book at church with scraps of paper. Often these pieces of paper would drop out and he would have to remark the page. In 1974, Mr. Fry remembered a fellow employee, by the name of Dr. Spencer Silver, had discovered and discarded an adhesive because it was not strong enough to be permanently useful. Mr. Fry began working on this adhesive. For one and a half years he worked to make an adhesive that would be strong enough to hold a note in place, but not too strong that it would be permanently attached. In 1977 the 3-M Co. test marketed the post-it-note in four cities. It was successful in only two of the cities. When they researched to find why, they discovered that the two successful cities had given free samples. After trying the post-it-note for free, people liked it so much they were then buying packages of them.

Telephone

In 1876 an inventor spilled battery acid on his pants and called for his assistant to please come help him. The assistant heard the plea for help through the device they were working on.

Alexander Graham Bell and his assistant, Thomas Watson, were working on the telephone. Bell called out, "Watson, please come here. I want you." This accident helped them to realize their success, and the invention was patented a few months later.

Velcro

An inventor went for a walk and noticed upon returning that he had cockleburrs stuck to his clothes. He wondered what enabled them to stick so tightly to clothes. He looked at one under a microscope and noticed it was covered with small hooks similar to fishhooks. This gave him the idea to develop Velcro.

