Top Secret Rule Reasons!

An original WritingFix writing assignment based on David Wisniewski's The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups.

Below, find the initial brainstorms of three writers—Lauren, Robbie and Natalie. Have your students look these over. Pose this task to student groups: "Imagine you are in Lauren's, Robbie's or Natalie's writing response group. If Lauren, Robbie or Natalie shared these initial ideas for this writing assignment, what advice would you give them to help them turn their brainstorms into a story that is as detailed as one of the "real rule" stories from Mr. Wisniewski's book."

Grown-Up Rule # 113:	**Grown-Up Rule # 9,999:**	**Grown-Up Rule # 99:**
Don't smell the glue.	Don't leave food on your plate.	Don't talk with your mouth full.
"OFFICIAL" REASON:	**"OFFICIAL" REASON:**	**"OFFICIAL" REASON:**
It can make you sick.	Because it's bad to waste good food.	It is rude and disgusting.
THE TRUTH, as reported by Lauren, a second grader:	**THE TRUTH**, as reported by Robbie, third grade writer:	THE TRUTH, as reported by Natalie, fifth grade writer:
When you sniff glue up your nose, it will drip down. It will come out of your skin, making your body stick together. You'll be a big glue ball.	*If you waste good food, the plate will eat it! And the plates will get fat and make new plates until there is a whole army of plates. Then they will take over your house. Then they will take over America. Then they will take over the world!! They roll around and when they see us, they lay down flat on us until all that's left is our clothes!!!*	*If you talk with your mouth full, the food might crawl out of your mouth! If it crawls out of your mouth, it will come to life as an evil glob of food, known as the GREAT EVIL FOOD MONSTER! It consumes everything in its path! You are most likely to be in its path, and the only way not to be eaten is to dress up as a monkey. The GREAT EVIL FOOD MONSTER hates monkeys. Monkeys killed his brother. The GREAT EVIL FOOD MONSTER wants to kill them, but he hates the taste of them.*