**Step one (sharing the published model):**  Mr. Wright's students learn a valuable lesson about punctuation's importance in Robin Pulver's Punctuation Takes a Vacation: without it, writing is hard to make sense of.  Enjoy this book aloud several times with your students.  On the first read, have students guess which punctuation mark has written each of the post-cards.  As a quick extension to this on-line lesson, you might have your students write other types of correspondence (friendly notes, e-mails, memos, etc.) as if it came from punctuation instead of people.  By the way, there is a complete lesson on this called "Corresponding Punctuation Marks" in the Northern Nevada Writing Project's [**Going Deep with 6 Trait Language Guide**](http://www.unr.edu/educ/nnwp/publications.html#traits).

Ask your students, "Has anyone ever seen that cartoon....oh, what's it called....[**The Incredibles**](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00005JN4W?ie=UTF8&tag=writi-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B00005JN4W)?"  Tell your students that today they will be thinking about punctuation (or parts of speech) in a different way...just as Mr. Wright's students learned to do in Punctuation Takes a Vacation.

Tell students they will create an imaginary family of, at least, four members.  At the very least, they will have a father, mother, sister, and brother.  If they wish to include more, they can.  Tell your students, "Each family member must be like a different piece of punctuation, or they must be like a different part of speech.  As you create your family, you must think about how you will explain the connection between each family member and the punctuation or the part of speech."

Step one will be to create each family member with a name, a drawing, and with a short piece of writing that explains what punctuation mark or part of speech they are like.  Once students have four family members planned and written about, they will compile their ideas into a "book."

**Step two (thinking and pre-writing):** The interactive button game on the [**Student Instructions Page**](http://writingfix.com/Picture_Book_Prompts/PunctuationTakesVacation2.htm)might get your students excited about planning their "Conventional Family's" members and powers, but students can certainly plan their ideas away from the computer too! A class brainstorm works marvelously.

Pass out the attached graphic organizer to help your students plan the introduction to their "Conventional Families."  Be sure to model how you would fill it out, if you were creating a family; if your students are doing punctuation mark families, plan a part of speech family using this worksheet on the overhead; if your students are doing part of speech families, plan a punctuation mark family for them.