Lesson 4: Wow Your Reader

UNIT: Amani's Animal Rescue

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Jackie. In the last lesson, you wrote about those adorable kangaroo rats and these goofy armadillos. You added to the First Draft of your animal sign by creating a topic sentence and a conclusion. But writers don't just stop with the first draft. They want to make sure their writing isn't a snooze. Hey! Wake up sleepy.

Writers revise to make their writing more exciting and interesting so that everyone will want to read it. First tries always have some room for improvement. Watch this little girl try to pour grape juice for the very first time.

Well, it went okay. She did get the juice in there, but there's definitely some room for improvement. First drafts are a lot like trying something for the first time. There's a lot that went well, but there's also some things that can be improved.

Take a look at one of the sentences from Amani's first draft. After he revised it, it looked like this—a lot changed! When Amani read his first draft of his sign, he was really pleased with all the great information he had included. Then he realized he can make some changes to make his writing more exciting.

Let's take a look at how Amani can revise. In Amani's first draft, he wrote, "The squirrel goes to another tree, leaving the cat behind." Amani realized the word "goes" doesn't

describe how the squirrel gets from one tree to the other. Is there a more exciting word Amani could use?

DISCUSSION 1

Think of some exciting words that describe what the squirrel is doing.

HOOK 2

Amani thought of some words, too. He thought maybe the squirrel "flies" from the tree, or "glides" from the tree, or maybe "soars" from the tree. You may have thought of other good ideas, too.

Amani decides to revise his sentence by swapping the word "goes" and instead writing "glides." His sentence now reads, "The squirrel glides to another tree, leaving the cat behind." He only swapped one word, but it makes a big difference!

Amani's sentence is already getting more interesting, and he wants to add even more excitement. Amani knows he can use describing words to make this sentence more fun. He thinks about how he can describe the squirrel. Is it a "big" squirrel? A "tiny" squirrel? An "energetic" squirrel? Or a "lazy" squirrel?

Take just a moment to share some words that you think describe this squirrel.

DISCUSSION 2

Think of some exciting words that describe this squirrel.

HOOK 3

There are lots of different words Amani could use. The squirrel is "brown" and "quick." The squirrel could also be "brave" or maybe "terrified." Amani thinks the squirrel is pretty "speedy."

Amani revises his sentence again, adding a new adjective: "The speedy squirrel glides to another tree, leaving the cat behind." Wow! This sentence is way more thrilling than the first sentence Amani wrote.

Today, you'll get to revise your writing to make it more exciting.

My friend Walker will get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

Today, you'll be revising your First Draft.

Later on, you'll add the Beginning & Ending you wrote in the last lesson. This part of your sign is now the middle.

Cross out where it says, "First Draft" and write in "Middle."

STEP 3

In this activity, you'll be working with a partner. When everyone has a partner, decide who will be "Scribble" and who will be "Jot."

STEP 4

Before revising, authors always reread what they've already written to make sure their writing makes sense.

Quietly, whisper-read your draft to yourself.

When you're done, show a quiet thumbs up.

STEP 5

Scribble: Put your draft in the middle so both you and your partner can read it. Work with your partner to choose one action word that you could swap for a more exciting word. When you've decided, circle that word.

STEP 6

Both partners: Look at the circled word. Come up with some ideas for other words that are more exciting. When you're done brainstorming, Scribble: write in the word you like best above your circled word.

STEP 7

Time to switch.

Jot: Put your draft in the middle. Work together to decide which action word could be swapped, then circle that word. Come up with some ideas of other words that are more exciting. When you're done brainstorming, Jot: write in the word you like best above your circled word.

STEP 8

Now it's time to try on your own.

On your own draft, circle a second action word that you'd like to make more exciting. Think of a new word you could swap and write it in the space above the word.

You can use your Wow Words sheet to help if you would like.

STEP 9

Writers don't just swap words, they also add words to describe what they are writing about. Pick a word that you could describe and underline that word.

You could describe an animal, a place, or a thing.

For example, you could describe a toad, a desert, or a tree.

STEP 10

Now think of a few words that describe the word you underlined, like a "bumpy" toad, a "hot" desert, or a "gigantic" tree. Pick the best one and add it in.

You can add words to your writing using a little arrow, like this.

If you have time, you can add more describing words.

STEP 11

Writers often add groups of words or even entire sentences to help the readers picture an image in their head.

Amani thinks the squirrel's skin looks like wings on a bird. What kind of things does your animal remind you of?

Share your ideas with your partner.

STEP 12

Amani decides to add, "like the wings on a bird" to one of his sentences so visitors know exactly what the squirrels look like when they fly.

Choose one of the things that your animal reminded you of and add your comparison to one of your sentences.

STEP 13

Your writing is getting so exciting with all of your revisions!

When authors revise, they also get feedback from other writers to help improve their writing.

Jot: Show your partner the changes you made.

Scribble: Tell Jot which new word you thought was the most exciting.

When you're done, switch roles.

STEP 14

Before we wrap up, look at your papers that have a V.I.P. icon on them. These are very important papers. Your teacher will tell you where to put them for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

Today, you used two strategies to revise your writing—you swapped words and added words or phrases.

There are more things that writers do to revise their writing. When Amani was revising, he removed part of one of his sentences, like this. He also moved a part of his sentence, like this. The next time you revise your writing you can try even more strategies.

With the changes you made, your new sign is more unforgettable and fun!

In the next lesson, you will learn to edit, create your final draft, and share your excellent work.

Amani's Animal Rescue Center is lucky to have you helping out!