Lesson 4: Add Some POWER

UNIT: Would You Rather

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Anne!

You've been getting ready to be a guest on *The Either / Or Explorer* podcast. You'll answer the question, "Would you rather be an octopus or a parrot?"

To decide, you watched amazing videos of how parrots can talk:

- "I left my heart."

And dance.

And you saw how octopuses can change colors, and solve mazes, and so much more.

Podcasts are something that people listen to. So that means listeners won't be able to see the videos that you did, but that's okay. Your writing will be so powerful that listeners will be able to picture all the amazing things your animal can do.

You might have a sentence like, "Parrots like to play."

Hmm... I'm not sure what that means. Do they play soccer, or play chess, or play card games? This sentence could mean anything.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What could you add to this sentence to help listeners picture what parrots can do?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said you could add lots of facts and details, or maybe you said you could describe some of the videos you watched and explain all the parts. You may have had other ideas, too. It turns out this sentence was about the small parrot who learned how to play teeny tiny basketball.

As a writer, when I want my writing to be powerful, I think a lot about which words I want to use. Even changing one word can make a sentence totally different.

Check it out. If I was writing a sentence about this balloon artist who makes amazing balloons, I could write, "This balloon artist makes a big balloon dragon." Or maybe a "huge balloon dragon," or a "gigantic balloon dragon."

By changing the word *big*, I can make this sentence more exciting and really describe how gigantic this balloon dragon is. Let's see how you can use powerful words in your writing about octopuses or parrots.

Remember this video, where an octopus goes through a tiny space? A sentence describing this video could be, "Octopuses can go through tiny spaces."

Hmm... Well, that is what happened in the video, but the word *go* doesn't show how absolutely amazing this octopus is. Maybe there's a more powerful word besides *go* that could better describe this video.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What is another word you could use in this sentence? Think of as many as you can.

HOOK 3

There are so many choices—they can fit through tiny spaces, or squeeze through tiny spaces, squish, maneuver—any of these are great choices!

You probably came up with even more.

As the writer, you'll get to decide which word you think best describes what this octopus can do.

Then your listeners can really picture just how amazing octopuses are. Let's brainstorm some words for parrots.

Here's a video you watched of a very talented parrot who can talk:

- "What's this cup made of? What's the cup made of?" Parrot: “*Metal.”*

- "What am I doing?" Parrot: “*Pour water.”*

- "What color?" Parrot: “*Red.”*

- "Tell me what letter?" Parrot: “*Rrr.”*

- "Rrr... That's right. Good job, Apollo!"

- "What color?" Parrot: “*Purple.”*

Parrots can talk—talk is a good word. It does describe what the parrot is doing, but maybe there's a way to be more specific about what parrots can do.

You can use more than one word to describe what this parrot is doing.

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: What words could you use to describe what this parrot is doing? Think of as many as you can.

HOOK 4

Parrots can name objects, or determine materials, identify colors, answer questions—there are lots of ways to describe what parrots can do. As the writer, you get to choose the powerful words you think will help your listener picture what your animal can do.

When I was reading all about octopuses, I learned how they can be sneaky—like this octopus who figured out a way to steal crabs. It sneaks into crab traps, eats all the crabs, and then gets out before the fisherman even knows it's there. I thought instead of "get out of the trap," I could use the word escape, flee... And then I saw this word... abscond.

Whoa! That is a powerful word. But I don't know if I've ever used that word in my writing before, but I know it means something similar to these other words. To double check, I looked up this word in the dictionary. It means to leave quickly and secretly.

Hey, that's exactly what this octopus is doing! I'm going to challenge myself as a writer and try to use this word in my writing. If you come across any new words today, you can challenge yourself to try to use them, too.

Today, you'll write about the second reason why you chose your animal. Later on, you'll write the ending of your podcast episode. Along the way, you can choose powerful words you want to use to help your listeners picture what your animal can do.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

To make room on your desk, your Podcast Script (1) worksheet can be tucked underneath your Podcast Script (2) worksheet for now.

STEP 3

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 4

Get your podcast plan. Take turns with your partner reading your thesis, reason two, and examples for reason two.

STEP 5

Before we come up with powerful words, it may help to see some of the amazing videos from Lesson One again. We'll play the parrot videos first, then the octopus videos. Take a look:

- "What's this cup made of?" Parrot: “*Glass.”*

Now that you've seen the videos again, read your reason two and linked examples. Underline two words that you could swap for more powerful words or phrases. If you want, you can choose three.

STEP 6

Work with your partner to think of as many powerful words as you can that could replace your underlying words. You can use your Powerful Words worksheet to help come up with ideas.

STEP 7

As the writer, you get to decide which words you want to include in your writing.

To add powerful words, you can revise words on your plan like this.

Try swapping at least one word. If you already had a powerful word in your plan, you can try different words, too.

STEP 8

Get your Podcast Script (2) worksheet.

The host is going to ask you to share a second reason. To answer their question, you can put your thesis and reason together in one sentence.

If you picked a powerful word to use in your reason, don't forget to use that word.

Begin writing at the microphone.

STEP 9

Now you can add sentences to explain your examples.

You can use these transition phrases to let listeners know you're starting an example.

Don't forget to use your powerful words along the way. Keep writing until you have included all of your examples.

STEP 10

To end your paragraph restate your thesis. You can use one of these sentence starters or come up with your own.

STEP 11

Silently read the paragraph you just wrote. If you see any places where you want to add more powerful words or descriptions, you can add them.

When you're done revising, show a silent thumbs up.

STEP 12

What's that?

A writing tip!

As a writer, I go back to my writing all the time and make changes—revising and making it better every time.

When you wrote about your first reason, you probably weren't thinking about using more powerful words, but it's not too late. You can return to your writing and change words or add more words to make sure your listener can picture your examples—and your first reason, too. Switch your Podcast Script pages so that your Podcast Script (1) is on the top.

Add powerful words to your first reason paragraph.

Your teacher will tell you how much time you have to revise.

STEP 13

Nice job adding powerful words to your writing! Your reader will really be able to picture the amazing things your animal can do.

Take just a minute to share some of your favorite powerful words that you wrote with your partner.

STEP 14

Find your Podcast Script (2) worksheet.

It's time to write the ending of your podcast.

The hosts will ask you what you want your listeners to remember. The answer is up to you—it could be your reasons, or your favorite thing your animal can do, or anything else you want to stick with your listener at the end.

Begin writing at the headphones.

STEP 15

Before you sign off, you can end by encouraging the listeners to agree with you. You can use one of these sentence starters, or come up with your own.

STEP 16

The very last part to write is at the bottom of your worksheet.

As the guest, you get to decide what the question will be on the next episode.

Use your imagination and write in two options that you think the next episode should be about.

STEP 17

Your script is now complete. To keep your script together, staple your script pages (1) and (2) together with one staple like this.

WRAP UP

Writers, you have a complete podcast script for your episode of *The Either / Or Explorers*—this is something to celebrate! You have an introduction, two reason paragraphs, and an ending. All throughout, you added powerful words to help listeners picture what your animal can do.

In the next lesson, you will edit your writing to make sure it's easy to read. Then, you will present your very own episode of *The Either / Or Explorers.*

Make sure you put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe, and I'll see you next time!