Lesson 3: Plan your Poster

UNIT: Bioluminescence

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

The aquarium is getting ready to open the new exhibit, Deep Ocean.

This exhibit will house amazing animals that create their own light.

So far, the exhibit is home to comb jellies and a sea angel. The exhibit isn't ready to open yet. More animals are arriving every day. And besides, there's no poster yet.

Jaden has been checking out the other posters at the aquarium to get ideas. He was looking at the poster about spider crabs when he noticed—it was written by one of the other aquarium volunteers, Kelsey.

Jaden went to find her to tell her how awesome her poster is. She told him thanks, but it did not start out like that.

Jaden asked her what she meant, and she showed him her notebook. Kelsey started by taking notes. There was a lot of information, but it wasn't organized at all.

On her next page, she showed Jaden how she sorted her notes by making an outline.

She used her outline as a plan to help her write the poster.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you notice Kelsey included in her outline?

HOOK 2

Maybe you noticed that it has sections with headers and lots of notes. She planned to include an introduction and a conclusion, and it looks like she made some changes along the way. You may have noticed something else, and that's great.

Kelsey used her outline to organize her notes into sections. Then she used her outline to write her poster.

Right now, you have lots of notes and information about bioluminescence. Information that goes together might be in all different places in your notes.

Today, you'll use your notes to make an outline. That way, the information you have will be organized into sections that are all about one thing.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

Get your Notes worksheet.

Pick three questions that you want to answer in your poster. Be sure to pick questions that have check marks so you know that you have information to answer them.

Circle the three questions you picked.

STEP 3

You now have three questions that you will write about in your poster. But, you don't have to write about them in the order they are written in your notes. Think about which questions visitors might want to know the answer to first, second, and third.

Write numbers next to the questions to mark which questions you want to write about first, second, and third.

STEP 4

The three questions you circled will become the three body paragraphs in your poster. Each paragraph can have a heading, like a title.

If you want, you can write the question as the heading: "Why do animals use bioluminescence?" Or you can come up with your own title, like "Glow to survive," or "Reasons to shine."

Get your Outline worksheets. In the order you chose, write the headings you want to use in the heading blanks on your Outline worksheets.

STEP 5

Nice job, writers! You know what your three body paragraphs will be about. Now you can sort your notes you want to use into each section.

Read through your notes. When you find the information that matches one of your sections, copy it into that part of your outline. If you find information that you want to include, but it doesn't go with your sections, write it in the extra information section of your outline.

Check off your notes as you copy them into your outline.

STEP 6

Nice job, writers! You have planned lots of information that you will teach your readers about bioluminescence.

Find the “Introduction” section of your Outline. To hook your reader, you might tell a surprising fact, ask a question, or address a common misconception. Like how some people might think that the deep ocean is completely dark, but that's not true.

Write the strategy you would like to use next to “hook.” If you want, you can write the specific fact or question you would like to use.

STEP 7

Background information is anything your reader should know in order to understand your poster.

You might define bioluminescence, explain what bioluminescence is, or give an example that your reader might recognize, like a firefly.

Write the strategy you would like to use next to background information.

STEP 8

To end your introduction, you can give your reader a preview of what they will learn in your poster as they keep reading. Next to "Preview," write a few words about what each of the three body paragraphs are about. If you want, you can use your headings or ideas.

STEP 9

Find the "Conclusion" section of your Outline. You can begin your conclusion by summarizing the most important facts.

Pick two or three facts from your outline that you want your reader to remember. Write the facts next to "Summary." You can always change them later on if you want.

STEP 10

To end your conclusion, you can suggest that your reader do something, think about something, or share something with others. Write what you would like to suggest to your readers next to “Suggest.”

STEP 11

Nice job, writers! You have an outline for all the parts of your poster.

When Kelsey made her outline, she read it more than one time, making changes.

Read your outline. You can revise your outline by changing the order of notes, removing things, or adding more information. If any of your sections only have a few notes in them, you can go back to the sources to find more information and add it to your outline.

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers!

You now have an outline that you can use to create your poster for the aquarium. So far, you've gathered a lot of information, and now you've made a plan for your poster. In the next lesson, you'll draft your poster. I can't wait to see how your poster turns out.

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