Lesson 2: Plan Like a Pro

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret.

One of the reasons that I like watching the Odd Jobs show is that not only does it feature different jobs from around the world, it also shows very unusual or silly jobs.

For example, did you know there are people whose job is to be a professional sleeper? Hotels hire them to test out beds and then to write reports about how comfortable the beds were. They literally get paid to sleep.

There's a job called aquarium diver. They put on scuba gear and dive inside giant aquarium tanks to feed the animals and clean the glass, so visitors can get a crystal clear view.

There's even a job called a panda nanny. They take care of baby pandas all day, playing with them, feeding them, and making sure they're healthy and happy.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: If you had to choose one of these for a job, which one would you choose and why?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said you'd want to be a panda nanny because you would get to be around cute pandas all day. Or maybe you said that you'd be a professional sleeper because you're already really good at sleeping. You may have said something else, and that's great.

These jobs might sound silly at first, but they are all real careers that require very specific skills. They also require you to have a daily plan for how you'll handle the job's tasks each day. For example, if you were a panda nanny and didn't have a plan, you might show up not knowing which pandas need feeding, which ones need playtime, or know when it's time to put them all to bed.

Whether you're planning your workday as a panda nanny or planning your writing for the Odd Jobs show, planning helps you know what you need to do, what order to do it in, and helps you do it well.

One tool that writers can use to plan their writing is an outline. An outline contains the big ideas you want to include and the order you want to put them in. It helps you stay organized and helps you remember what you want to say. Then, when you start writing your draft, you already know what to write and can just focus on explaining your ideas.

You've been learning all about what it's like to be a professional wildlife photographer and voice actor. You've chosen which job you think should be featured on the final episode of Odd Jobs.

Today, you're going to create an outline for your writing. You'll write ideas for your introduction, reasons, and conclusion. All of this will help make your writing clear, organized, and convincing.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

On your Outline worksheet, find the Introduction section. This is where you'll write your *thesis* statement—it's the sentence that will state your opinion and the purpose of your writing.

Since you are choosing which job you want to see on the Odd Jobs show, the purpose of your writing is to convince the show's producers to pick the one that you want.

Think about the show you chose, and then write your thesis statement here.

You can use this thesis statement or come up with your own.

STEP 3

Now you can think of two reasons why the job you picked is the best choice for the show. Reasons often start with how we feel about something, what excites us, or connects with us. Maybe you're excited that wildlife photographers traveled, or that voice actors are creative.

Get your Job Notes worksheet. Read your notes for the job that you chose and think about why you picked it.

When you're ready, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 4

On your Outline worksheet, next to Reason 1 and Reason 2, write your two reasons.

STEP 5

In order to convince the Odd Jobs producers that each of your reasons are true, you'll need to show evidence in your writing. Evidence can be facts, information, or quotes.

For each reason, find at least two notes that can be used as evidence for that reason. If you feel like you need more notes, you can go back to your job worksheet to find more.

Copy the notes you picked into the matching evidence sections of your outline.

STEP 6

Quotes are the exact words someone said, like what Jill or Kilian said in their interview.

For the job you chose, get either your Wildlife Photographer or Voice Actor worksheet. Reread the interview, and find at least one quote that you can use as evidence to support one of your reasons.

Once you find something you might want to use, underline it.

STEP 7

One way writers use quotation marks is to quote what somebody said, like this: Jill said, "My photos can actually help protect animals."

Look back at what you underlined.

Choose one sentence you would like to use as a quote in your writing. Make sure that it supports your reason.

On your Outline worksheet, fill in the matching Quote section by first writing the name of the person who's being quoted, followed by what they said. Be sure to put quotation marks around it.

STEP 8

Nice job, writers! You now have two reasons with evidence for each one. Now you can plan your conclusion.

At the end of your writing, you really want to be as convincing as possible. You want to remind the Odd Job's producers of all the reasons why they should choose the show that you think would be best.

Since this is just an outline, fill in the Conclusion section of your outline by copying your thesis statement and two reasons here.

If you want, you can write something new for your conclusion sentence, but keep your reasons the same.

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers! You now have a great plan for what you'll write about and then submit to the Odd Jobs show. All of this planning will really pay off when you sit down to draft your full opinion.

Right now in the writing process, you're here—using your notes to plan your writing. In the next lesson, you'll draft your opinion and then later revise and edit it. You'll then submit it to the Odd Jobs website to cast your vote.

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