Lesson 3: Convince the Club

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

Recently, I was watching TV and I saw a show come on that was all about dogs. This show was a contest for the funniest dog video. Check out some of the videos that were entered in the competition.

All of these videos are pretty great, but which one is the funniest dog video?

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Which one do you think should win the funny dog video contest? Why did you pick that one?

HOOK 2

When you were sharing why you picked your favorite video, you may have used the word "because." Because is a great connecting word that often answers the question, why? It can be used to connect an opinion—I think this dog won, to a reason—because he is super fast.

You've been working on a different kind of animal competition—the bird of the year contest. In the last lesson, you made a plan for your writing that includes an opinion, two reasons, and details for each reason. When you draft your writing, you'll need to use

words to connect your ideas. The word because is a great connecting word, but there are other connecting words, too, like and, also, or for example.

Here's a part of Morgan's plan from the bird of the year contest last year. Morgan connected her opinion to her reason using the word because: "I think the peregrine falcon should win because it looks powerful." This is a great start!

Now, Morgan needs to connect her details to what she has already written. Her details are: strong feet, powerful wings, curved sharp beak. She can use other connecting words, like for example, or for instance, or also.

Think about how Morgan could use these words to write her next sentence using one or more of her details.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: Try using these words and Morgan's details to create her next sentence.

HOOK 3

I don't know what you said, but here's what Morgan wrote: For example, it has strong feet. Also, it has powerful wings and a curved sharp beak. Each of these words helped Morgan connect the ideas in her plan.

Right now, you're writing into the birding club with your opinion for this year's bird of the year. You might be writing about the weaverbird, or the lyrebird. So far, you have a plan for writing with your opinion, reasons, and details.

In today's lesson, you'll start your draft to write into Morgan's birding club about the bird you think should be the winner. As you write today, you'll use connecting words to link the different parts of your plan together.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

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 3

When Morgan wrote into the birding club, she knew that her opinion sentence was the most important part of her writing, but she didn't write it the same way every time. Sometimes she wrote her opinion like this: I think the peregrine falcon should win the bird of the year contest. Other times, she wrote it like this: The winner of the bird of the year contest should be the peregrine falcon. And sometimes she wrote: The peregrine falcon should be the winner.

All three of these sentences share Morgan's opinion, but she used different words each time, so her writing didn't sound repetitive.

Get your Planning worksheet and your Draft worksheet. On your Draft, there's already a greeting to the birding club written here. Let the birding club know your opinion by writing your opinion here. You can copy the sentence from your Planning worksheet, or try writing it a different way like Morgan did.

STEP 4

Complete the last sentence of your introduction by writing both of your reasons here. You can write your reason one, then the word "and," then your reason two.

STEP 5

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 6

Nice job, writers! Your introduction is complete. You let the birding club know your opinion and the two reasons you will write about.

Now you can start your first reason paragraph. To begin your reason paragraph, you can connect your opinion to your first reason using the word "because." Remember, you can state your opinion using different words than the plan if you want.

Try saying this sentence out loud by saying your opinion, the word "because," and your first reason.

Share your sentence out loud with your partner.

STEP 7

Write the sentence you said out loud starting at the feather. Write: *your opinion* "because" *your first reason*.

If you'd like to see Morgan's example, we've put it on screen.

STEP 8

You connected your opinion to your reason using the connecting word "because." Now you can connect your details, too.

Take turns using these connecting words to share your reason one details with your partner out loud.

STEP 9

Write a few sentences to add your details to your paragraph. Try using connecting words as you write. Continue writing where you left off.

STEP 10

It's time to wrap up your first reason paragraph.

Add a final sentence to your paragraph that restates your opinion. You can use one of the sentences on screen, or come up with your own.

Continue writing where you left off.

STEP 11

Take turns reading your reason one paragraph out loud to your partner. If you want, you can make changes.

WRAP UP

Nice job, writers! You used connecting words to connect the different parts of your plan. You now have an introduction and your first reason paragraph.

In the next lesson, you'll draft a paragraph for your other reason and write a conclusion that will convince the birding club to select your bird as the bird of the year. It's a tough competition this year. And I can't wait to see how your writing makes both of these birds shine.

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