Lesson 6: Design Your Fanzine

UNIT: Storyteller Con

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Margaret. When I'm finishing a piece of writing, I don't get to the end and say, "OK, all done." I read my writing over and over, looking for any parts I want to change. Sometimes I write parts over and over trying to get them exactly right.

You're getting ready to share a piece of writing. As a writer, you'll read your writing many times, each time looking for one thing you might want to change.

I have some ideas about how you can make your writing the best that it can be. Here's my countdown of ways to get your writing ready to share. I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Before we begin, you'll need a piece of writing that you're going to edit and get ready to share. Get the draft you're working on now.

STEP 2

Number 5: Punctuation!

Every sentence needs to end with a period, question mark, or exclamation point. When a quote is included in a sentence, a comma goes right before the quote begins.

Discuss: Where are the missing punctuation marks in this sentence?

STEP 3

A comma goes here before the quote. The period needs to go here at the end of the sentence but inside the ending quotation mark.

Now, look through your writing to check for punctuation. If any are missing, you can add them.

STEP 4

Number 4: Capitalization

Proper nouns are specific names of people like me, Margaret, but also the names of characters in a story. Proper nouns need to be capitalized even in the middle of a sentence.

Discuss: Where is the missing capital letter?

STEP 5

This letter needs to be capitalized since Marco is the name of a character.

Now look through your writing. Make sure the start of every sentence is capitalized as well as the names of characters, even when they're in the middle of a sentence.

STEP 6

Number 3: Spelling

Discuss: Where is the spelling mistake in this sentence?

STEP 7

This word was spelled incorrectly.

Now get your writing.

Use all the spelling strategies you know to help you spell your words. If you're not sure how to spell a word, you can use resources in your classroom or your copy of Aiko's Voice. If you see a misspelled word, you can fix your mistake.

STEP 8

Number 2: Check for complete sentences.

Discuss. What could you add to the sentence to make it a complete sentence?

STEP 9

This sentence is missing who walked home.

Now, read your writing to check to make sure your sentences are complete. You can read in your head or whisper-read to yourself. If you find a sentence that is incomplete, you can add more to fix it.

STEP 10

Number 1: Recopy your work.

Your teacher will tell you where you'll write your final draft. When you recopy your writing, you might find parts that don't make sense or other parts you want to change. You can make changes as you recopy.

Get the papers you will need to recopy onto, then take your time to make your writing the neatest it can be.

STEP 11

To get ready, get these supplies.

STEP 12

Get your fanzine cover. Fold it in half on the line like this.

STEP 13

Think of a title for your fanzine and design your cover. If you want, you can try writing your title in a fun way, like this. You can add color and illustrations to make the title of your fanzine fun and exciting.

STEP 14

Get the first page of your fanzine. Write page numbers 1 and 2 in the circles. If you have more pages, continue adding page numbers to keep your fanzine in order.

STEP 15

You can decorate the writing inside your fanzine too. You can use colors to underline important parts like your thesis statement, create titles or decorations in the margins, or add illustrations.

Your teacher will tell you how long you have to decorate.

STEP 16

Fold each of your fanzine pages in half on the line, like this. Make sure your writing is on the outside of the folded paper. Run your finger along the edge to make a strong crease.

STEP 17

Stack your folded fanzine pages in order in a pile with page 1 on the top. Your pile should go in odd numbers with page 1 on the top then 3, 5, and so on. Make sure they are in a neat pile with the edges lined up.

STEP 18

Take your folded cover page with the title on the front.

Open the fold like this, and place your stack of folded fanzine pages into the cover page.

Double check to make sure when you open the title page, page 1 is right side up and ready to read.

STEP 19

Make sure all your pages are lined up and neatly stacked inside of your cover.

Use a stapler to put three staples on the staple icons.

If you're waiting your turn for a stapler, you can color in the logo on the back of your fanzine.

STEP 20

Fold over the left side of your fanzine on the line, here. Be aware of the staples while you fold. They can be sharp.

Press down to make a strong crease. Then unfold it.

WRAP UP

Wow, writers, your fanzines are complete and ready to share. You have put in so much work and have made Storyteller Con a huge success! Your fanzines are both strong pieces of writing and amazing works of art.

And check this out. This is a picture of the first fanzine ever made. It's called The Comet, and it was made in 1930. It's a fanzine all about what the authors think about science fiction stories.

Since the invention of fanzines, writers have made them to share ideas about all kinds of things. Like this one about coding, or this one about how to make soap, or this writer who made lots of Zines and put them in her own invention, the little Zine vending machine.

Now you are part of the long history of fanzine writers. I can't wait to see what your next one is going to be about.

I'll see you next time!