Lesson 4: Opening and Final Acts

UNIT: Festivals

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret. Thanks to Tariq's channel, you've been learning so much about festivals that happen all over the world.

We've learned a lot about La Tomatina, but I was curious about something—how does the festival start? And how does everyone know when to start throwing tomatoes? Maybe there's a dance off and the winner gets to throw the first tomato. Or maybe there's a tomato art contest before the food fight starts. Maybe you can imagine a creative way to start this festival.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What could be a fun way for this festival to start?

HOOK 2

I'm sure you thought of an awesome way for this festival to start.

I actually found some information about the start of La Tomatina on Tariq's channel. Before the tomato throwing can begin, participants try to climb a tall pole that has been greased with lard or soap so that they can get the ham that is tied at the top. Once someone gets the ham, the festival can start.

Writers also need a way to start their writing. But don't worry, your writing doesn't need a greased pole or ham to start. Instead, writers add a section to introduce what their writing will be about. By writing a beginning or introduction, you can let Tariq know about your opinion before you get into your reasons why.

Today, you're going to draft an introduction for your message to Tariq. Later, you'll work on your conclusion.

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

For now, you'll need your Intro / Conclusion worksheet, Word Bank, and Option 1 & 2 Notes. You can put the other pages to the side.

STEP 4

Your introduction will start your writing and let Tariq know what your message is about. It'll include three parts: a greeting, your opinion sentence and both reasons, and a transition sentence to move your reader to the next paragraph.

Get your Intro / Conclusion worksheet.

Find the "Introduction" box.

We'll start with the introduction by saying hello to Tariq. You can use one of these sentences to start your greeting or come up with your own:

- Hi, Tariq!
- Hello, Tariq!

Write your greeting here.

STEP 5

Now that we've greeted Tariq, it's time to tell him our opinion and reason so that he will know which festival you're voting for and why. We can put it all in one sentence, like this:

- I vote to see the video about La Tomatina because I'm excited to see the food and the activities.

Look at your notes to remind yourself about the festival you chose and your two reasons why. Then write your sentence.

STEP 6

Finally, your introduction needs a transition sentence to help your reader move smoothly from your introduction to your reasons paragraph.

You can use one of these examples or come up with your own:

- Read on to learn more about why I picked this festival.

Or

- Keep reading to learn more about why I want to see this festival.

Begin writing where you left off.

STEP 7

Read over your introduction. As you read, make sure you have a greeting, your opinion and reasons, and a transition sentence.

STEP 8

Take turns sharing your introduction with your partner.

HOOK 3

You just wrote an amazing introduction for your writing. You included a greeting, your opinion and reasons, and a transition sentence. Now Tariq will know exactly how you feel about one of these festivals before he gets into reading your reasons and examples. Great job!

After learning about how La Tomatina starts, I was also curious if the food fight at La Tomatina has an ending. Here's what I found out on Tariq's channel:

> - La Tomatina doesn't really have a closing ceremony, but they have an ending signal. Local residents use hoses and buckets of water to clean up the town after all of the tomato throwing. The fire trucks even come to help wash the town down. This lets everyone know the tomato throwing is over.

This signal helps give everyone involved a clear ending to what's happening. It's also a celebration of a successful event.

Writers use endings or conclusions too, but for different reasons.

Writers include a conclusion to remind their reader of the most important parts of what they wrote.

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: What do you want Tariq to remember most from your writing?

HOOK 4

Maybe you want him to remember which festival you voted for. Or maybe you want him to remember your favorite parts about the festival. You might have said something else and that's great.

A strong conclusion lets the reader know your opinion again, the parts you're most excited about, and includes a closing. A closing could mean saying thank you to your reader, saying goodbye, or maybe even a catchy sign off phrase.

Today, you're going to draft your conclusion. You'll end your message to Tariq by reminding him which festival you're voting for and what parts you're excited about.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 9

For now, you can put your Option 1 & 2 Notes and Word Bank to the side. Then get your Reason 1 and Reason 2 worksheets.

STEP 10

Find your three worksheets and put them in this order. First, your Intro / Conclusion, then your Reason 1, finally, your Reason 2.

STEP 11

Your conclusion needs to remind Tariq of the most important parts of your message, like your opinion and parts of the festival that you're most excited about. It'll also need a closing.

Silently read your writing. Start at the introduction, then reason one, and finally reason two. When you're done, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 12

Look at the "Conclusion" box on your worksheet.

Tariq needs to know this is your ending, so you can start your sentence like this:

- In conclusion...
- To sum it up…

Then restate your opinion about which festival video you would like to see. This will remind Tarik about which video you're voting for.

Start writing here.

STEP 13

Now it's time to add what you're excited about when you think about Tariq posting this video. What parts of the festival you chose stood out to you? If you want, you can close your eyes and imagine all of the things you remember about your festival.

Discuss with a partner: What are some parts about the festival you chose that you found most exciting?

STEP 14

Now you can let Tariq know what parts of this festival you're most excited about. Start your sentence like this:

Option 1 - I hope that your video shows...

Option 2 - I can picture your video showing…

Then write the things you are most excited about for this festival video.

STEP 15

It's time to write your closing. This sentence will thank Tariq for taking the time to read your message.

Write your sentence thanking Tariq. If you need help, you can use one of the examples below:

- Thank you for considering my choice on which festival video to post.
- Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion

Continue writing here.

STEP 16

Read over your conclusion. As you read, make sure you included your opinion sentence, parts of the festival you're most excited about, and a closing. You can make changes if you want.

STEP 17

Take turns sharing your conclusion with your partner.

WRAP UP

Amazing! Your message to Tariq about which festival you want to see is now complete. It has an introduction, two reasons with examples, and a conclusion. He'll be so impressed to see how you took the time to form your opinion and organize your writing.

In the next lesson, you'll edit your writing to make it easy to read.

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