Lesson 3: Add Your Evidence

UNIT: Storyteller Con

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret. One time, my friend went to an art convention where there was a newspaper art contest. She texted me two pictures. This one, and this one.

At first, I thought she accidentally sent me the same picture twice. So, I replied, "These photos are the same." But my friend said, "These photos are different."

They look pretty similar to me. Maybe you can help my friend point out some evidence that proves these pictures are different.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What differences can you find in these pictures? Find as many as you can.

HOOK 2

Maybe you saw how her bow is gone in this one. Or how some of the patterns on her dress changed. Maybe you found some other differences too.

After my friend pointed out this evidence, now I agree—these *are* different pictures. Pointing out evidence is a great way to convince someone of your opinion. This made me think of what you're working on in your fanzine. You have a plan with a thesis statement where you state the theme you saw in the story. This is your opinion.

You also planned evidence. In your fanzine, the evidence is how you can point out the parts of the story that show the theme.

I have a plan for my fanzine too. Here's my thesis: The theme of the story is it's important to speak up for your friends.

Fanzines have an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. To start my draft for my fanzine, I'll write my first body paragraph—wait a minute—opinion writing begins with an introduction. Why don't writers write that part first since it's the first part?

The reason writers start by drafting body paragraphs is because the introduction gives an overview of the entire fanzine. It would be really hard to write an overview when nothing else has been written yet. If I draft my body paragraphs first, it will make it easier to make an introduction later on.

My first body paragraph will be all about my first reason and the evidence I planned. I'll start by writing my reason:

- Early in the story, Aiko didn't stand up for Sadie, and Sadie got upset.

Next in my plan, I have my first piece of evidence:

- "I didn't know what to say. I didn't know *how* to say." I shrugged.

If I write my evidence right after my reason, my reader won't know that this quote is from the story. I can add a sentence or a phrase to introduce the quote. Maybe I could write, in the story it says or something else.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What other sentences or phrases could I put here to introduce this quote?

HOOK 3

Maybe I could add a transition phrase like, "For instance, the text says," or "For example, in the story it says." you may have come up with something else, and that's great.

I'll use this phrase before my evidence, so my reader knows where this quote came from:

- For example, in the story it says, "I didn't know what to say. I didn't know *how* to say." I shrugged.

Now I'll introduce and write my second piece of evidence:

- Another example is a few lines later in the story when it says, "Sadie stormed off, tears streaming down her face."

This is a great start to my paragraph. I have my reason and two pieces of evidence. But something's missing—I haven't written my thesis statement anywhere in this paragraph yet. I can put it next and end my paragraph with a thesis:

- Sadie got upset as a direct result of Aiko not standing up for her. As you can see, the theme of the story is it's important to stand up for your friends.

This is a complete body paragraph for my fanzine. I have my reason, two pieces of evidence, and my thesis statement.

Today, you'll draft your first body paragraph of your fanzine.

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

Begin by reviewing your fanzine plan. Read your thesis, reasons, and evidence quietly to yourself.

When you're done reading, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 4

To begin your body paragraph, write your first reason. You can copy your "reason 1" sentence from your plan, beginning with, "Early in the story," or use one of these sentences instead.

Begin writing at the lightning bolt.

STEP 5

Next up, you'll add your first piece of evidence. You can use one of the sentence starters on your worksheet to introduce your evidence. Remember to copy your evidence exactly and put it in quotation marks, like this.

STEP 6

Attention, Storyteller Con attendees. We have a special presentation today about a writing tip.

Today's writing tip is how to include quotes with dialogue.

If your evidence has a character talking in the story like this, when you put quotation marks around the whole sentence to include it in your fanzine, it looks confusing with so many quotation marks.

To make it clear which quotation marks show the beginning and end of the evidence, and which ones show the dialogue, writers use only one quote mark around the dialogue, like this. Writers do this only when there are quotation marks inside of other quotation marks.

Take a look at the evidence in your plan. If any of your evidence includes dialogue, you can change the dialogue quotation marks to single quotes now. If you want, you can check your copy of Aiko's Voice to see if your evidence has dialogue.

STEP 7

It's time to write your next piece of evidence. Just like the first piece of evidence, make sure you introduce the evidence before you add your quote.

STEP 8

Now you can connect your evidence to your thesis statement.

Discuss with your partner: How did the evidence that you included connect to your theme?

Your theme is underlined in your thesis statement box.

STEP 9

Add a sentence or two that explains how your evidence connects to the theme in the story. You can use one of these sentences to help you get started.

STEP 10

To end your body paragraph, add your thesis statement so your reader remembers what all this evidence was for. You can copy your thesis statement from your fanzine plan or write it a different way using one of these sentences.

STEP 11

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

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers! You now have a draft of your first body paragraph in your fanzine. I can't wait to see what your fanzines will look like when they're all finished. Maybe they'll look like these fanzines from last year or maybe they'll look totally different.

In the next lesson, you'll draft your other body paragraph.

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