Lesson 3: Start Your Script

UNIT: Would You Rather

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Anne!

My friend Ash was on an episode of *The Either / Or Explorers*, the same podcast that you are working on. Just like you, Ash made a plan of what she wanted to say on the podcast.

Her plan included a thesis, reasons, and examples. Before Ash made her episode, she did a rehearsal. I asked her, "What is one reason you picked that animal?" On her first try, it sounded something like this:

"Okay. So, ahh yeah... Otters are great! And, for many reasons, like, I saw this one video where it was so cute, and he kept doing all this stuff, and it was awesome. And, what else? Oh, yeah. Also, okay. Okay-okay-okay. They can play music. Okay. Like, not really good or anything, but in the video, it's still really cool! And, oh, yeah. I forgot to say so, like, they like to play and stuff. So that's pretty great! And yeah."

It's pretty clear that Ash is really excited about otters. But if that first try was on the podcast,

it would be pretty hard to know what she was talking about.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What do you think Ash should do to make sure her ideas make sense on the podcast?

HOOK 2

I'm not sure what you said, but Ash realized she needed to figure out what she was going to say on the podcast before she recorded.

That way, she can put her ideas in order, add details, and get rid of some of the "ums" and other extra words.

Ash wrote a script that she read on the podcast. By writing a script, she had time to really think about what she wanted to say and what would make the most sense to listeners.

Plus, knowing exactly what she was going to say made her feel more confident!

Let's see how Ash wrote her script.

She started with a plan just like yours. Take a look!

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What do you think Ash can do to turn this plan into a script?

HOOK 3

Maybe you said she needs to turn her notes into complete sentences. Or maybe she can add more details to describe her examples for listeners who haven't seen the video she has. Maybe she can use transition phrases to help connect each part of her plan.

You may have come up with other ideas, too.

On the podcast, the host will ask her: "What is one reason you picked that animal?"

Check out what she wrote.

To start, she used her thesis and her reason together to answer the question: "I would rather be an otter because otters love to play."

Next, she added her examples.

To link her reason to her example, she used this transition phrase: "For example." Then she wrote how "otters like to play with toys such as stacking cups or playing with a basketball."

Next, she linked her second example by using this transition phrase: "Another example."

She kept on writing until she included all the parts of her plan.

Listen to how Ash's episode turned out:

> "I would rather be an otter because otters love to play. For example, otters like to play with toys such as stacking cups or playing with a basketball. Another example is when a piano is given to otters, they enjoy playing it. I really like to play and have fun, so if I were going to be an animal, I would want to be an animal that can play and have fun too. That's why I would rather be an otter."

That was way more clear than Ash's first try. She sounds like a real podcaster.

She included her thesis and reason, added her examples, and explained them. Then she restated the thesis at the end.

Today, you'll write the first part of your script for *The Either / Or Explorers.*

You'll use your plan to help you write all the parts. Then you'll sound like a real podcaster too.

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

Get your Podcast Script worksheet. On your script, you will see lines for the podcast host. When you present your podcast, you'll have a partner read those parts.

The writing space is where you'll write what you are going to say on your episode.

Point to the section that says, "Reason 1".

We'll write the introduction later on.

STEP 4

The host on the podcast is going to say, "Tell me one reason why you chose that animal."

To answer them, you can use both your thesis and your first reason together in one sentence.

Take turns with your partner saying your thesis and reason 1 together out loud.

You can use these sentences to help.

STEP 5

Write your thesis and reason 1 together in one sentence at the microphone. You can use one of these sentences, or come up with your own.

STEP 6

What's that?

A writing tip!

Writers don't wait until the end to edit their writing. They edit as they go.

Double check: Does your sentence start with a capital letter and end with a period?

When it does, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 7

Now it's time to link your examples. Choose one of these transition phrases and write it where you left off.

STEP 8

Finish the sentence using the first example you planned on your Podcast Planning worksheet. You can write more than what you put on your plan to really describe the cool thing your animal can do.

Pause when you've finished writing about your first example.

STEP 9

Use one of these transition phrases to link your second example.

Then describe your second example from your podcast plan. Continue writing until you have included all your "Reason 1" examples.

STEP 10

To end your paragraph, remind the listener what your opinion is. This is where you can restate your thesis. You can use one of these transition phrases or come up with your own.

HOOK 4

Nicely done, writers!

You have a strong reason paragraph with your thesis and reason, two examples, and your thesis restated at the end—this is a strong reason paragraph for a podcast and for any kind of opinion writing.

Now it's time to look at the introduction.

The very first thing that the host will ask you is: "Would you rather be an octopus or a parrot?"

To help your listener understand your opinion, it can help to let them know how you decided on your animal. Maybe it was really easy, and you knew right away. Or maybe you thought really hard about it. You might have even changed your mind when you learned about these animals. Think back to lesson one, when you decided which animal you want it to be.

DISCUSSION 4

Discuss: Was it hard for you to pick which animal you want it to be? Why or why not?

HOOK 5

I don't know how you answered, but your listeners will be interested to know how the decision went for you.

Here's what Ash wrote for her intro: "This was a tough choice for me because chameleons and otters can do amazing things. However, after learning about both these animals, I would rather be an otter."

Ash shared how this decision went for her, and she let the listeners know she learned about both animals before deciding. Then she included her thesis, so listeners know what her final decision was.

Now it's your turn to write your podcast introduction. You'll let your listeners know how the decision went for you and then state your opinion. I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 11

Find the first line the host will say introducing you as the guest. Write your name in the blank.

STEP 12

The host will ask, "Would you rather be a parrot or an octopus?"

Write a sentence or two to share how this decision went for you. You can use one of these sentences or come up with your own. Begin writing at the headphones.

STEP 13

Think about how you learned about these animals.

You watched videos, read an article—or you may have already known about these animals from other places, too. Add a sentence sharing what you did to learn about both animals.

STEP 14

End your introduction with your thesis. You can use one of these transition phrases,

or come up with your own.

STEP 15

Remember the writing tip. You can edit your writing as you go. Check all the sentences you wrote today.

Do they all start with a capital letter and end with a period?

If any are missing, you can add them. When you're done, show a quiet thumbs up.

STEP 16

It's time to practice being on the podcast. With your partner, decide who will be the guest and who will be the host. You'll switch roles later on.

STEP 17

Guest: put your script in the middle so both partners can see it.

Host: you'll read the host lines.

Guest: you'll read what you wrote.

When you're done, swap in your partner's paper and switch roles.

WRAP UP

Writers, you are halfway through writing your episode of *The Either / Or Explorers*.

You have an introduction and a whole paragraph explaining your first reason. Your listeners will really be able to understand why you picked the animal you did. Plus, they might learn something from your episode that they didn't know before.

The writing you did today is as impressive as this parrot.

In the next lesson, you'll write your other reason paragraph and the ending for your podcast episode. Make sure you put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe, and I'll see you next time!