Lesson 4: Smooth It Out

UNIT: Rock Camp

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret.

When my friend Max came back from Rock Camp, he told me that he wanted to give me a gift that he made at camp—a rock that he had painted. I was so excited. I love painted rocks.

When I saw the rock Max had painted, I was totally surprised. It had this amazing pattern painted on it made of repeating circles and shapes. I loved it and it's now sitting right on my desk.

I asked Max how he made it, and he told me about his process. He said that he didn't just pick up a brush and paint the whole thing at once, he worked in stages. First, he chose his rock carefully. Then he sketched out what he wanted to paint. Next, he started adding different colors and bit by bit, the pattern began to take shape. Along the way, he'd ask himself, "Is this exactly how I want it?"

Writers do the exact same thing—when I'm finishing a piece of writing, I don't get to the end and say, "Okay, all done." I read my writing over and over, looking for any parts I want to revise or change.

Revision is when writers make changes to their writing, like removing parts of their writing, adding new words or sentences, or changing the order of their writing.

Just like Max and his rock, writers read their writing and ask themselves, "Is this exactly how I want it?"

Something that can help writers revise is a checklist. When I use my checklist to revise my writing, I read one part of my writing at a time and I check off each part that I included. Sometimes I can't check all my boxes yet and that's okay. I can make changes to my writing and check the boxes as I add more.

After I have everything checked off on my checklist, I read my writing again and sometimes make even more changes. All these changes are revisions. Revisions allow me to make changes so that my writing is exactly how I want it to be.

In today's lesson, you'll use a writing checklist to revise your letter to Hailey. Your letter is helping Max show Hailey why she should go to Rock Camp with him next summer.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

Put your Plan and Idea Bank to the side for now. You can use them at any time while you revise.

Put your Writing Checklist side by side with your Draft.

STEP 3

Find the "Introduction" section of your Checklist.

Read your introduction and check off each of the parts you already have. If any are missing, you can leave the box blank for now.

STEP 4

Now you can revise your introduction.

If any of your checkboxes are not checked, you can add those parts and check them off.

If you want, you can make other changes to make it sound exactly how you want. Use the lines that you skipped to write your revisions.

STEP 5

Take a look at the "Revision Ideas" of your Writing Checklist worksheet.

You could revise your word choice, add descriptions, or create sentence variation.

Read the "Revision Ideas" to yourself. When you're done, show a quiet thumbs up.

STEP 6

Pick one revision idea and revise your introduction using the idea you picked. If you want, you can use more than one idea. If you need more ideas, use your Idea Bank.

STEP 7

Nice job! Your revisions are making your writing more interesting and making it how you want it to sound.

Now you'll have some time to revise the rest of your letter to Hailey. Remember to use your Checklist, Revision Ideas, and Idea Bank to help you revise each part.

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

WRAP UP

Writers, you have a lot to be proud of! Your revisions have made your letter more descriptive, convincing, and how you want it to be. Since this is a draft, it may look a little messy right now, and that's okay.

Right now, you're here in the writing process. In the next lesson, you'll edit your draft and then write your final letter to Hailey.

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