Lesson 4: 3, 2, 1...Draft!

UNIT: Investigating Asteroids

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Ann. You've been researching all about asteroids and organizing your notes to get ready to write an article about how the Earth is protected from asteroids. Think back to all the research you've done so far.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: How do you know the Earth is protected from asteroids?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said some of the ways the Earth is protected is by the atmosphere or the DART Mission. Maybe you said you know because of the sources you used, or the expert you listen to while gathering information.

You'll use all this information in your article to teach others how the Earth is protected from asteroids.

Kristi is writing her article for her classmates. Who have been saying that an asteroid is going to hit the Earth. She'll really need to convince her readers that she got her information from a trusted source.

Kristi is excited to write and use her plan to help her write her article. But wait a minute. Kristi has notes and quotes in her plan. Kristi has never used quotes in her writing before, and she isn't really sure how to use them in a paragraph.

She knows each paragraph will need a topic sentence, details, and a concluding sentence. The quotes will go with the details, but she doesn't want them to come out of nowhere and seem out of place. She wants them to fit in with her writing.

To find out how to make her quotes fit in with her writing, she went to the library and looked for books that include expert quotes.

Check out this quote she found: *"for over twenty years, NASA has been funding search programs to observe the sky pretty much every single night. To find and track asteroids."*

Kristy read what came before, and after the quote, to figure out how the author fit it in with the rest of the writing.

> According to Davide Farnocchia, a NASA asteroid expert, *"for over 20 years, NASA has been funding search programs to observe the sky pretty much every single night to find and track asteroids."* This is important because it allows NASA to know in advance if an asteroid was on its way to Earth.

It's almost like the author is guiding the reader through the quote, making it easier for the reader to understand.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What do you notice the author wrote before and after the quote?

HOOK 3

Here's what Kristi noticed. She saw the author introduced the speaker. Then the author wrote the quote. And finally, the author added a short explanation for why this quote was important.

Kristi wants to try this in her writing. She's written a few sentences already using her notes. Here's what she has so far: The Earth's atmosphere protects it from asteroids. When small objects hit the atmosphere from space, they start to burn up.

The next thing in her plan is this quote. "We actually got hit by an asteroid that was the size of a small building and that one disintegrated about 20 kilometers above the city of Chelyabinsk."

Watch how she includes this quote.

First, Kristi needs to introduce the speaker using the information she included in her notes, here: According to Marina Brozovic, a NASA asteroid expert.

Now she writes her quote.

Now she needs an explanation. Why is this important? Kristi thought about how this quote supports her topic sentence: The Earth's atmosphere protects it from asteroids. Well, this quote doesn't have the word atmosphere in it at all. So, she'll need to explain how it supports the topic sentence.

Here's what she wrote: This shows that even huge asteroids the size of a building still burn up in the atmosphere before they get to the ground. This quote now fits in with the rest of her paragraph.

Kristi can continue drafting the rest of her paragraph using all the notes and quotes she put in her plan.

Today, you'll use your plan from the last session to draft two paragraphs. When you include your expert quotes in your writing, you'll introduce the expert, include your quote, and an explanation of why it's important.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

Get your DART Draft worksheet.

Before you begin drafting today, let's practice. Find the “Expert quote practice” box at the top of the worksheet.

One of Kristi's quotes is included here, but it's missing the introduction. Add the quote introduction on the line before the quote. Use the sentence starters on your worksheet to make an introduction.

The speaker's name and role are on the screen.See if you can use them both.

STEP 3

Here's what Kristi wrote: "According to Dr. Kelly Fast, NASA planetary defense expert,"

It's okay if you wrote something different. The quote is already written for you, but it doesn't have an explanation yet.

Kristi needs your help to explain how this quote is important to DART. Use one of these sentences to get started. Write your explanation sentence on the lines after the quote.

STEP 4

Here's what Kristi wrote: This highlights how a mission like DART could one day protect the Earth from an asteroid. It's okay if you wrote something different.

Now that you've practiced how to include a quote, get your desk ready to draft. You will need your DART Draft worksheet, and your Sorting Mat packet flipped to Sorting Mat 1.

Your research packet can go to the side for now. You can use your research packet if you want to look for more information or to help with spelling.

When you're ready to start drafting, move on to the next step.

STEP 5

On your DART Draft worksheet, write a topic sentence to begin your paragraph. You can use the one printed on your plan or come up with your own. Begin writing at the arrow.

STEP 6

Continue drafting your paragraph, using the notes you put in order last time, one at a time to make sentences. Check off your notes as you go so you remember which ones you already wrote about.

When you get to a quote, remember to introduce the speaker, put your quote, and explain how it supports the topic sentence.

You can always check the practice section on your worksheet to help make your quotes fit in.

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

STEP 7

To end your paragraph, write a concluding sentence. A concluding sentence summarizes what the paragraph was about. It can be very similar to the topic sentence.

Here's what Kristi wrote.

You can use her concluding sentence or come up with your own.

STEP 8

Mission Control update with a writing tip.

Others use commas to separate each part of an expert's introduction before a quote. Look how Kristi put a comma after the name of her expert and between the expert's role and the quote.

Check your quotes to see if you have commas between the parts of your expert introductions and your quotes. If any are missing, you can add them.

STEP 9

Take a few minutes to read the paragraph you just wrote. If any parts don't make sense, you can change them.

STEP 10

Get your desk ready to draft your other paragraph. Put your DART Draft worksheet to the side. Get your Atmosphere Draft worksheet and turn to Sorting Mat 2 in your plan packet.

When your desk is set up, move on to the next step.

STEP 11

The top of your worksheet can help you make your quotes fit in. You can use the checklist to make sure you have all the parts of a paragraph.

On your own, draft the other paragraph for your article.

If you don't have enough time to draft all your second paragraph today, you can always finish later on.

STEP 12

Take a few minutes to read the paragraph you just wrote. If any parts don't make sense you can change them.

WRAP UP

Amazing job writers! You drafted two subtopic paragraphs for your article. Writers call these paragraphs, body paragraphs.

In the next lesson, you'll add an introduction and a conclusion to complete your draft.

Soon, Kristi's classmates will know that an asteroid hitting the Earth isn't very likely.

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