Lesson 2: Soar into Planning

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

One time, I saw an amazing contest on TV—this is a hat contest. People build incredible hats that look like works of art. Check out some of the hats.

All these amazing hats—it can be hard to decide which one is the winner. I think I know which one I like best, but I'm curious: Which hat do you think should win and why?

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Which hat do you think should win the hat contest and why?

HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but I picked the big pink hat because it looks like a big sculpture. You might have had a different opinion, and that's great.

When you said why you like the hat you chose, you were giving a reason why you think that hat should be the winner. Reasons can help other people understand your opinion and can make your opinion more convincing, too.

You're helping out with a different kind of contest right now, the bird of the year contest. This contest has been going on for a few years now. Last year, the peregrine falcon won the contest.

My friend Morgan wrote into the bird of the year contest and helped pick this winner. When Morgan wrote into the contest last year, she started with some notes about the peregrine falcon. Here's what she wrote in her notes:

> *How it looks: powerful wings, gray and white with spots, strong feet.*
>
> *Unique skill: can dive straight down from high in the sky, fastest animal in the world, I think they look like a dart when they dive.*

Morgan has lots of notes, but she isn't ready to start writing quite yet. She needs to think of some reasons why the peregrine falcon should be the bird of the year.

Using Morgan's notes, think about what reasons Morgan could write for why this bird should win.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What are some reasons Morgan could write for why this bird should be the bird of the year? Try using this sentence to help you give a reason.

HOOK 3

Maybe you said the peregrine falcon should be the bird of the year because it looks powerful, or because it is the fastest animal in the world. You may have said something else, and that's great.

Morgan's opinion is that the peregrine falcon should win. She wrote two reasons that share why she thinks this bird should win. Here are her reasons:

Reason one: it looks powerful.

Reason two: it can dive.

This is a great start, but Morgan had other information in her notes. She used her notes to add details, or examples, to each of her reasons.

She looked at her first reason—it looks powerful—and she looked at her notes. She saw this note: powerful wings. She added this note as a detail because it describes how the peregrine falcon is powerful.

She also saw this one: strong feet. This is another part of the falcon that is powerful, so she added that to her details, too.

Morgan didn't use all of her notes, and that's okay. She picked the notes that she thought described her reason the best. Morgan used her notes to add details to her second reason, too. When Morgan had her opinion, reasons that explain why she had her opinion, and details that describe each reason, she ended up with a plan.

Making a plan helped her organize her thinking and her notes. Then, when she started to write later on, she had everything she needed to make her writing clear and organized.

This year's bird of the year contest has just started, and there are two amazing birds this year, the weaverbird and the lyrebird. So far, you have taken notes on both of these birds, and you picked who you think the winner should be.

Today, you'll make a plan for your writing. You already have your opinion. You'll think of two reasons and add examples and details from your notes for each one. In later lessons, you can use your plan to help you write a clear and organized opinion.

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 Planning worksheet and your Notes. Look at the bottom of your Notes worksheet to find the opinion sentence you completed in the last lesson. Copy your opinion sentence onto your plan here.

STEP 4

Since you've already decided which bird you like the best, you will only need your notes for the bird you picked. One side of your worksheet has your weaverbird notes, the other side has your lyrebird notes.

Fold your notes worksheet in half, like this. Flip your Notes worksheet so your bird is face up.

STEP 5

Read your notes in the top section about "How It Looks." When you're done, show a quiet thumbs up.

STEP 6

Whether you pick the weaverbird or the lyrebird, both of these birds look amazing!

You took notes on what these birds look like, and you also wrote what you think about your bird. The "I think" section of your notes is a great place to find a reason why you like this bird.

Share with your partner: What is one reason you think your bird should win the contest based on how it looks?

STEP 7

Maybe you think the weaverbird should win because it looks determined, or because it's cute. Or maybe you think the lyrebird should win because it looks interesting, or beautiful.

Find one reason on your Planning worksheet. Complete the sentence to write one reason based on how your bird looks.

STEP 8

When Morgan made a plan for her writing, her reason was that the peregrine falcon looks powerful. Morgan knows that the birding club might not be sure what it is about the peregrine falcon that makes it look powerful. She added details from her notes of all the things that she thought made this bird look powerful.

Read your notes that you took about how your bird looks. If any of your notes describe your first reason, you can copy them into the "details" section of your Planning worksheet.

Put a check next to any notes you copied over to mark which ones you used.

STEP 9

When Morgan made a plan for her writing, she used details from her notes, but she wanted to add even more details about how the peregrine falcon looks powerful. She looked closely at a picture of a peregrine falcon and noticed all the parts that make it look powerful to her. She noticed its intense yellow eyes, curved sharp beak, and sharp talons. She added these details to her plan.

Let's take another look at the birds in this year's contest. Keep your first reason in mind as you watch these videos. Look for any parts of your bird that you could add as details.

Here's the weaverbird, and the lyrebird.

Add any details that you notice that describe your first reason to the "details" section of your notes.

STEP 10

Nice job, writers!

Now you can make a plan for your second reason. Each bird has a unique skill. Either the weaverbird nest making skills or the lyrebird's amazing ability to copy sounds.

Take a moment to read what you wrote in the "Unique Skill" section of your notes. When you're done, show a quiet thumbs up.

STEP 11

Share with your partner: What is the reason why you think your bird should win the contest based on its unique skill?

STEP 12

Maybe you said the weaverbird should win because of how it makes its nest, or because it can weave grass. Or maybe you said the lyrebird should win because it makes amazing sounds, or it can copy the sounds it hears, like this lyrebird making construction sounds.

Find "reason 2" on your Planning worksheet. Write your second reason on the blank.

STEP 13

Take a look at your notes. If any of your notes could be used as details to describe your reason, put a check next to them.

Then copy those notes into the "details" section of your plan.

STEP 14

You can add even more details to your plan by looking closely at your bird's special skill again. In a moment, we'll play a video of these bird skills again. As you watch, keep an eye out for more details that could describe your reason.

Add any details that you noticed to the "details" section of your notes.

STEP 15

It's time to check your plan. Double check to make sure that your plan has two reasons and at least two details for each reason. If you want, you can make changes.

STEP 16

Share your plan with your partner. If you want, you can make changes or add more to your plan.

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers! You made a plan for your writing that has reasons and details. In the next lesson, you will use this plan to help you write into the bird of the year club. Your plan will help you make your writing organized and convincing.

I can't wait to see which bird is the winner this year.

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