Lesson 2: Plan Your Podcast

UNIT: Would You Rather

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne! I have a *Would You Rather* question for you.

When you think about which choice you would make, also think about why you picked that one.

Would you rather be able to make incredible balloon art, like this balloon artist, or safely spin fire, like this fire dancer?

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Would you be a balloon artist or a fire dancer? Why?

HOOK 2

I don't know which one you picked, but I would rather be a balloon artist because I could make balloon art for my friends.

It's okay if you would rather be a fire dancer—that's what makes this game so fun!

When I explained that I would rather be a balloon artist because I could make balloon art for my friends—this part is a reason why I picked balloon artist. Reasons help people understand why I picked what I did.

You're getting ready to be on an episode of *The Either / Or Explorers.*

When you're on the podcast, you will be asked a *Would You Rather* question: “Would you rather be a parrot or an octopus?”

After you answer, the Explorers will ask you why you picked the animal you did. To be ready, you'll need to explain some reasons why you made your choice.

Think back to the last lesson when you learned all about parrots and some pretty awesome stuff they can do.

- ”Tell me what letter?” Parrot: “*Rrr.”*
- ”Rrr, that's right! Good job, Apollo!”
- ”What color?” Parrot: “*Purple.”*
- ”What's this cup made of?” Parrot: “*Glass.”*

You also learned about octopuses and the types of things they can do.

No matter which one you would rather be, think about why you want to be that animal.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What are some reasons why you would want to be an octopus or a parrot?

HOOK 3

There are so many reasons! Maybe you want to be a parrot because they are playful, or maybe because they take care of each other. Maybe you want to be an octopus because they're really good at hiding, or maybe because they're super smart. It's okay if you thought of something different—your reasons are your own!

Let's see how this would go on the podcast.

If I were going to be on the podcast, I could say I want to be a parrot because they're playful. Hmm... that's a good reason, but podcast listeners might not know what I mean. They don't know how parrots are playful. To help, I can link some examples of parrots playing. An example is a fact or detail that shows how parrots are playful. I might have some examples in my notes.

Here are my notes about parrots:

- Can fly 50 miles per hour
- Play tag games
- Can live over 80 years
- Share food
- Dance along to music

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: Which notes could be used as examples of how parrots are playful?

HOOK 4

I think these notes are facts about how parrots are playful. They play tag, and they dance along to music. It's okay if you pick something else.

Let's practice one more time.

Maybe someone in your class wants to be an octopus because they're super smart. Let's find some facts or details that are examples of how octopuses are smart.

Here are my notes:

- They can solve mazes
- Change the color of their skin
- Squeeze through tiny holes

- Sneak into crab traps to eat the crabs
- Have 9 brains

DISCUSSION 4

Discuss: Which of these notes could be used as examples of how octopuses are smart?

HOOK 5

I know octopuses are smart because they can solve mazes, they can sneak into crab traps to eat the crabs, and they have 9 brains.

It's okay if you picked something different.

Wow! This reason must be really strong because I have 3 examples that show it's true. If I only had one, I might need to change my reason to something else.

Now that you've practiced coming up with reasons and examples that are connected to the reasons, you can get started planning your podcast episode.

Right now, you have a thesis that gives your opinion. You wrote that in the last lesson.

Today, you'll need to plan two reasons and examples for each reason.

Don't worry about writing what you're actually going to say just yet. Writers plan for how their writing will go before they draft, so you don't need to write in complete sentences.

You can write just a few words so you remember the important ideas.

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 Either / Or Notes in your Podcast Planning worksheet.

Copy your thesis statement from the bottom of your notes onto your Podcast Planning worksheet in the box that says, "thesis."

STEP 4

Think about why you picked the animal you did.

If you aren't sure, you can use the ideas in this box to help.

Take 30 seconds to think quietly about why you picked your animal.

STEP 5

Take turns sharing with your partner the reasons you came up with.

STEP 6

Write one reason you would want to be the animal you chose in the "reason one" box.

You'll add a second reason later on.

STEP 7

Get your Either / Or Notes.

Flip the paper face down on your desk.

Fold the paper on the line.

Use your finger to press down and make a strong crease.

STEP 8

Flip your *Notes* page to the side that matches the animal you chose. Put your Notes page next to your Podcast Planning worksheet.

STEP 9

Keep your "reason one" in mind and read your notes.

Look for facts and details that show reason one.

Put a check next to any notes that could be examples.

You can always look back at your informative article to get more information.

STEP 10

What's that?

A writing tip!

When I first thought of a reason for why I wanted to be an octopus, I wrote, "steal crabs out of crab traps." But then, when I checked my notes for examples of that, I couldn't find any.

Hmm... I think I know what happened.

This is a fact about octopuses, and maybe it would be better used as an example. I'll need to revise my reason.

Instead of crab traps, my reason could be that octopuses are smart.

Then I can use the crab trap fact as an example—or how they can solve mazes, or how they can open jars. Now I have tons of options.

Check your reason to see if it's an idea that you can support with examples. If you're having trouble finding examples, you can change your reason, like I did.

STEP 11

Choose two examples that best explain "reason one."

Copy those notes into the "examples" boxes. If you have more than two examples,

you can add more below.

STEP 12

Think of a second reason you want to be the animal you chose. You can use a reason from the "Ideas" box or come up with your own. Write your second reason in the "reason two" box.

STEP 13

Use your Either / Or Notes or your Informative Article to find examples that can explain reason two. Put arrows next to any notes you want to use as examples. If you need to, you can always change your reason.

STEP 14

Choose two examples that best explain reason two. Copy those notes into the "example" boxes.

If you want, you can write more examples below.

WRAP UP

Nice job, writers!

You now have a plan for how your podcast episode will go. Let's take a sneak peek at the podcast script.

First, the host will ask you the *Would You Rather* question: “Would you rather be a parrot or an octopus?”

You can answer that with your thesis.

Then, they'll ask you to share a reason. You've got a plan with one reason and examples, too.

Then they'll ask you for another reason. And you have a plan for that, too. You are getting closer to being ready to be a guest on the podcast.

In the next lesson, you'll start writing what you're actually going to say on *The Either / Or Explorers* podcast. For now, make sure you put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe, and I'll see you next time!