Lesson 2: More Spots to Stop

UNIT: Road Trip

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Amy.

One time, I was on this road trip and stopped at this place called Valle de los Cirios, which means valley of the candles. At first, it just looked like a desert, but when I got closer and got to explore, I saw how amazing it really was.

There were huge cacti taller than a house, weird twisty trees, and even tiny animals scurrying around. I was able to explore some of the trails, climb the rocks, and pretend I was an explorer in the desert.

When I was telling my friends to go check it out on their next road trip, I showed them this picture but they didn't really get why it was so cool.

I realized I needed something more than just showing them a picture to convince them to go see it. I needed to explain the reason why they should go see it.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What would you say to convince someone to visit Valle de los Cirios?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said, "You should visit Valle de los Cirios because of the interesting shapes of the giant cacti," or "because you can see lots of different creatures," or maybe "because you can feel like an explorer in the desert." You may have said something else and that's great.

By adding reasons to an opinion, it tells someone what you think and why they should agree with you.

You've been helping Lane and her aunt on their road trip. They're planning their drive back home and trying to decide where to stop along the way. You've used your opinion and added a reason to help them decide on where to stop.

They might not be stopping at this desert, but there are plenty of places that are just as fun for them to see.

Last time you saw the Fremont Troll in Washington and Sweet Willy in Idaho. Then you decided which one you think Lane and her aunt should see and came up with one reason to see it.

This time, we're going to make your opinion even stronger by coming up with not one, but two reasons. Giving two reasons makes your writing more convincing and helps your reader understand exactly why you chose your opinion.

You'll look at two more stops that Lane and her aunt want to stop at along the way. You'll form an opinion, come up with two reasons, and add it to the trip itinerary you started last time.

Get ready to help Lane and her aunt pick some even more awesome stops for their road trip back home. 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 Stop #2 worksheet and write your name and date here.

STEP 4

Lane and her aunt need your help deciding on where to stop for the second part of their road trip home. Here are the two billboards Lane took pictures of when they drove through this area the first time.

Here's the first one, the Sun Tunnels in Utah. These are giant concrete tubes in the desert. When you look through them at the right time, you can see the sun rising and the sun setting all through the tube because it lines up perfectly. You can even crawl through them like tunnels.

The second one is Tiny Town and Railroad in Colorado. Tiny Town and Railroad is over 100 years old. There are over 90 tiny buildings to explore. You can even hop on a mini train and take a ride. Think about where Lane and her aunt should stop.

Discuss with a partner: Where do you think Lane and her aunt should stop? You might have a different opinion than your partner and that's okay.

STEP 5

Get your Stop #2 worksheet. Look at the map on the bottom half of your page.

Circle the stop that you chose.

STEP 6

Look at the first two lines that say, "Lane should stop in" blank, "to see" blank. This is where you'll write what your opinion is or which stop you chose. Fill in the state here and the name of the stop here.

If you need help, you can use the billboards at the top of the worksheet. Here are some things to remember as you write: make sure to capitalize the state, capitalize the name of the stop, and don't write a period yet—you'll connect your reason to this sentence later.

STEP 7

Now you need reasons saying why you picked this stop. Think about why you chose this stop. Let's look at the billboards again.

Sun Tunnels

- Giant concrete tubes in the desert.
- They line up with the sunrise and sunset.
- You can crawl through them like tunnels.

Tiny Town and Railroad

- Over 100 years old.
- Over ninety tiny buildings to explore.
- Hop on a mini train and take a ride!

The facts on these billboards can help you come up with reasons. Think about two reasons why you chose this stop. Maybe it'd be cool to see a tiny town that's 100 years old, or maybe you can see the sunset through the tunnels.

Discuss with a partner: What are two reasons you chose this stop? If you need help, you can look at the facts on the billboards.

STEP 8

It's time to add your first reason to your itinerary. Last time you wrote your opinion and reason as two sentences. This time you'll level up your writing by combining your opinion and reason into one sentence.

When you use a connecting word like because, it connects your opinion and your reason together into one strong sentence.

Continue writing where you left off by writing the word "because" and your reason. Make sure to add a period when you're done.

STEP 9

Now you'll add one more reason to explain why you chose your stop. Once you have your idea, you can start a new sentence where you left off. If you're not sure how to start your sentence, you can use one of these:

- Also, _____
- A second reason is _____
- Another reason to stop here is _____

STEP 10

Take turns sharing your writing with your partner. You can make changes if you want to.

WRAP UP

Way to go! You explored two more stops along the way. Then you used your opinion to pick the one you want Lane and her aunt to see. You even came up with two reasons to support your opinion and added it to the itinerary. Great job!

Next time, you'll see the last two stops on Lane and her aunt's road trip. I'm excited to see how you think their journey should end. Make sure to put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe.

I'll see you next time.