

Lesson 4: Explain Your Evidence

UNIT: Storyteller Con

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret. Recently, I came across this drawing. When I look at it, I see an animal. Not everyone sees the same animal when they look at this drawing. I'm curious what you see.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss. What animal do you see when you look at this drawing?

HOOK 2

So far, you have a plan for your fanzine, and you've already used one reason and two pieces of evidence to write your first body paragraph.

When you made this plan, you thought a lot about exactly which pieces of evidence you wanted to use, exactly which parts of the story would help a reader see the story from your perspective.

When someone else reads your fanzine, they might not know why you picked the evidence that you did. That's where explaining your evidence can really help.

I'm working on the second body paragraph for my fanzine. My thesis statement is:

- The theme of the story is it's important to speak up for your friends.

Here's what I have so far:

- Later on in the story, Aiko speaks up for Sadie and they play together. For example, the story says, "'It was in,' I said, in a squeaky little voice. 'I saw it.'"

To add an explanation, I can ask myself, why did I pick this piece of evidence?

Well, I pick this evidence because it shows the moment when Aiko speaks up. It's important because after Aiko speaks up, we get to see how that helps her friendship with Sadie. Aiko's speaking up is how I saw the theme. It's important to speak up for your friends.

I have lots of ideas for why I picked this quote. Now I need to write them in a way that is clear for my reader.

There are lots of sentences I could use to help start my explanation:

- This shows ...
- This is important because ...
- This demonstrates ...

Give it a try.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss. How would you explain this quote? Try explaining it in different ways.

HOOK 3

Maybe you described what happened in this part of the story:

- "This shows how Aiko finally spoke up for Sadie."

Or maybe you explain why this quote is important to the story.

- "This is important because it marks the turning point in Aiko and Sadie's friendship."

Or maybe you explain how this quote connects to the theme I'm writing about:

- "The quote demonstrates how it's important to speak up for your friends."

You may have said something else, and that's great. These are three great questions you can ask yourself to help write a strong explanation.

- What happened in this part of the story?
- Why is this quote important to the story?
- How does this quote connect to your theme?

Writing answers to these questions will help your reader understand why you picked your evidence to show your theme.

Today, you'll write your second body paragraph. You'll use the same paragraph structure that you used when you wrote your first body paragraph. But this time, you'll add explanations after each piece of evidence so your reader can understand why you picked that quote.

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

Begin by reviewing your fanzine plan. Read your thesis, reasons, and evidence.

When you're done reading, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 4

Get your Body 2 Draft worksheet. To begin your second body paragraph, you can write the first two parts of the body paragraph structure. Write your second reason and your first piece of evidence. Don't forget to introduce your evidence.

STEP 5

To add an explanation for your evidence, you can explain:

- What happened in this part of the story?

Explain:

- Why this quote is important to the story?

Or explain:

- How this quote connects to your theme? With your partner, take turns explaining your first piece of evidence out loud.

STEP 6

Write your explanation for your quote next. You can use the sentence starters on your worksheet if you want.

STEP 7

On your own, you can finish the rest of your second body paragraph.

Introduce and write your second piece of evidence and add an explanation, including your thesis at the end.

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

STEP 8

Take turns sharing your second body paragraph with your partner. If you want, you can make changes.

STEP 9

When writers try out a new skill in their writing, they often go back to things they've already written to add in that skill. Writers call this revision.

Now that you know how to include explanations to your evidence, you can return to your first body paragraph and add explanations to that paragraph too.

Get your Body 1 Draft worksheet. Take a few minutes to quietly read what you wrote in the last lesson.

STEP 10

Find the first piece of evidence you included in your first body paragraph.

Discuss with your partner: Why did you include this piece of evidence?

If you want, you can use your explanation sentence starters on your Body 2 Draft worksheet.

STEP 11

To add your explanation to your evidence, draw a star where you want to add more sentences. Then, draw another star where you have room to write on your worksheet. This could be at the bottom of your worksheet or on the back.

STEP 12

Add your explanation for your evidence next to your second star.

If there are more revisions you would like to make to your first body paragraph, you can add more sentences using other symbols.

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

WRAP UP

Writers, your fanzines are becoming powerful literary essays! With your explanations, you will help your readers see the story from your perspective. Your reader might start by seeing the story one way, but you can change their perspective, so they see something else.

In the next lesson, you'll add your introduction and conclusion to your fanzine.

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