Lesson 1: Either / Or Explorers

UNIT: Would You Rather

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Anne!

My friend likes to play a game called *Would You Rather*. In this game, one person asks a question like: Would you rather be able to breathe underwater or fly? Then everyone has to pick which one they would rather be. I would rather fly, but it's okay if you would rather breathe underwater. The fun of the game is everyone thinks differently.

Let's play!

I'll ask the *Would You Rather* question, and you show which one you would pick by holding up the number one or the number two on your fingers.

Ready?

Let's play!

Would you rather play in a bouncy house or play at a splash pad?

Hold up the number of fingers that matches the one you would rather go to.

Here's another one: Would you rather live in the desert or the rainforest?

Last one.

Would you rather have elephant ears or chicken feet?

That was fun! You probably have a lot of opinions, and that's great.

My friend, Ash, got to play *Would You Rather* on a podcast. A podcast is a show where people record themselves talking about a topic, then listeners can listen to it anywhere.

The podcast that Ash was on is called *The Either / Or Explorers*. In every episode, they dive deep on one *Would You Rather* question. The question from Ash's episode was: “Would you rather be an otter or a chameleon?”

I'm curious what you think.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Would you rather be an otter or a chameleon? Why?

HOOK 2

You probably have some pretty strong opinions, and that's great. *The Either / Or Explorers* have a different guest on every week to answer a *Would You Rather* question. Right now, they don't have anyone for the next episode. The guest for the next episode can be... you. To get an idea of what it would be like to be on *The Either / Or Explorers*, let's listen to part of the episode that Ash was on.

- Hi, everyone, and welcome to *The Either / Or Explorers*, where we tackle a *Would You Rather* question in every episode.
- Today's question is a tough one and is going to require a lot of imagination. The question is: *Would you rather be an otter or a chameleon?*
- My guest today is Ash, and she's got some strong opinions. Welcome, Ash!
- Hi, explorers. Great to be here!

- So, give us an overview. *Would you rather be an otter or a chameleon?*
- This was a tough choice for me because chameleons and otters can do amazing things. However, after learning about both these animals, I would rather be an otter.
- A strong opinion. I love it! Tell me one reason why you chose that animal.
- I would rather be an otter because otters love to play. For example, otters like to play with toys such as stacking cups or playing with a basketball.
- Another example is when a piano is given to otters, they enjoy playing it. I really like to play and have fun. So, if I were going to be an animal, I would want to be an animal that can play and have fun too. That's why I would rather be an otter.

It sounds like Ash is pretty clear on her opinion that she would rather be an otter, but you may have noticed she said a lot more than just her opinion.

If all she said to answer the question was, "otter," that would be a pretty short and boring podcast.

Think back on what she told us about otters.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: what kinds of things did Ash say about otters?

HOOK 3

Maybe you heard how she talked about otters playing basketball, like this otter at the Oregon Zoo. Or maybe you remembered her saying they can stack cups, like this otter at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. Or maybe how they play the piano? These are all examples of how otters like to play.

When Ash got invited to be on *The Either / Or Explorers*, she didn't know all these things about otters. Ash had to prepare to be a guest on the podcast. In fact, Ash wrote everything she was going to say on the podcast just like a script. Ash took notes while watching videos and reading all about otters and chameleons. Then she decided which one she'd rather be.

Later on, she wrote everything she was going to say on the podcast. She used her notes to help her write all the parts. All this work is what made her opinion so clear and interesting to listen to on the podcast.

To get started, take a look at how Ash took notes before she decided which animal she would rather be.

You already saw some of the videos that Ash watched to learn about otters, but she also watched videos about chameleons and the unique things they can do—check it out!

DISCUSSION 3

Discuss: What are some cool things chameleons can do?

HOOK 4

Maybe you noticed how they have super long tongues that they use to catch bugs, or maybe you noticed how colorful they are—or how their eyes can go in all different directions.

When Ash took notes on these videos, she wrote a few words about what she saw chameleons doing: turn their eyes in all directions, can change colors, have really long tongues to catch bugs. She added a picture of a chameleon to her notes too.

Even though she didn't end up talking about chameleons on the podcast, she took lots of notes to help her decide. Ash's notes aren't complete sentences, and that's okay. When taking notes, writers use just a few words to remember the most important information.

This question—”Would you rather be an otter or a chameleon?”—has already been answered on *The Either / Or Explorers* in Ash's episode.

The next episode that you will make is a whole new question: “Would you rather be a parrot or an octopus?”

Today, you'll get ready to make your own episode of *The Either / Or* podcast.

You'll watch videos about both these amazing animals. You'll take notes on each one just like Ash did. Then at the end of the lesson, you'll make your final decision.

Which one would you rather be?

Whichever animal you choose will be the one you will write about and then read aloud when you make your episode of *The Either / Or* podcast.

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

Take turns sharing with your partner. What do you already know about parrots and octopuses?

STEP 4

You may already know something about these animals, and that's great!

To learn even more, get your Either / Or Notes.

Find the parrot section.

Take just a minute to draw a quick sketch of a parrot here. If you don't have enough time, you can always finish your drawing later on.

Video

If you didn't finish, you can keep working on your drawing later.

STEP 5

Watch these videos that show some of the amazing things that parrots can do. Take a look!

- ”What's this cup made of?” Parrot: “*Glass.”*

- ”What's this cup made of? What's the cup made of?” Parrot: “*Metal.”*

- ”What am I doing?” Parrot: “*Pour water.”*

- ”What color?” Parrot: “*Red.”*

-”Tell me what letter?” Parrot: “*Rrr.”*

- ”Rrr, that's right! Good job, Apollo!”

- ”What color?” Parrot: “*Purple.”*

- ”Yes, good boy!”

Discuss with your partner: What amazing things can parrots do?

STEP 6

Maybe you saw how they care for each other, live in big groups, and can talk to identify objects, colors, and more.

On the lines, add some notes about cool things parrots do. Write each new idea on a new line using a jot dot, like this.

Use just a few words to remember what you saw in the videos.

If you want, you can use your Word Bank to help.

STEP 7

To learn more, get your Information Articles Worksheet. Follow along as I read the section titled "Social Parrots."

Social Parrots
by Discovery Education

Parrots are well known for their amazing ability to copy the sounds of humans. Beyond talking, they also sometimes dance along to music or sing along.

Parrots' ability to talk, sing, and dance makes them a favorite pet for many people. In the wild, parrots live in big social groups and have friends and family all around. They work together to keep each other safe from predators.

Parrots clean each other, and some parrots share food to make sure everyone has enough.

Some kinds of parrots also play games with each other. They will play games similar to tag and chase each other around. They also sometimes play fight, trying to nip at each other's feet. They play games to stay in shape and to have fun.

Parrot Fun Facts:

- There are over 350 types of parrots.
- Some types of parrots can live for over 80 years, and the oldest parrot alive is over 100.
- The fastest parrots can fly over 50 miles *per* hour.
- Parrots usually fly between 1,000 and 3,000 feet above the ground.
- A group of parrots is called a “pandemonium of parrots”.

If you'd like to hear the article again, replay this step. Otherwise, move on to the next step.

STEP 8

Now you know even more about cool things parrots can do. Add what you learned to your Parrot notes on the lines. Be sure not to copy any sentences from the article and use your own words to jot some notes about what makes parrots so awesome.

STEP 9

Take turns reading your notes with your partner. If your partner wrote a fact that you don't have, you can add it to your notes.

STEP 10

Next, you'll learn all about octopuses.

To start, draw a quick sketch of an octopus here. You can always finish your drawing later on.

Video

If you didn't finish, you can keep working on your drawing later.

STEP 11

Watch these videos that show some of the amazing things that octopuses can do. Take a look.

Video

Take notes on cool things octopuses can do on the lines. You can use your *Word Bank* to help.

STEP 12

Maybe you wrote how they can squeeze through super small places, they can swim—or how they can change the color of their skin to blend in with what's around them.

To learn more, get your Information Articles worksheet. Follow along as I read the section titled "Clever Octopus."

Clever Octopuses
by Discovery Education

Octopuses are smart creatures. Some can build their own homes out of stones and use a rock as a front door to get some privacy. If they're away from home, some octopuses

bring their home along with them! They travel around with shells or coconuts that make a good home on the go. Since octopuses are very flexible, some smaller ones can fit themselves completely into a coconut or a shell. It's a great hiding place to watch for food or take a nap.

Octopuses can figure out how to solve problems. They can open jars, solve mazes, or even outsmart crab traps. When a crab fisherman pulls up a trap full of nothing but shells, it means an octopus snuck into the trap, ate all the crabs, and snuck back out before the fisherman even knew what was happening.

Octopus Fun Facts:

- There are over 300 types of octopuses.
- Octopuses can taste things with their tentacles.
- Octopuses have 9 brains. One main brain, and one smaller brain for each tentacle.
- Octopuses can change the texture of their skin as well as the color. They can make themselves bumpy like coral, smooth like an eel, or pointy like a lionfish.

If you'd like to hear the article again, replay this step. Otherwise, move on to the next step.

STEP 13

Add what you learned to your Octopus notes. Be sure not to copy any sentences from the article and use your own words to write about what makes octopuses so awesome.

STEP 14

Take turns reading your notes with your partner. If your partner wrote a fact that you don't have, you can add it to your notes.

STEP 15

Now that you've learned more about all the cool things that octopuses can do—like this one using a coconut as a home—and all the cool things that parrots can do—like this one dancing to music.

Discuss with your partner: Would you rather be a parrot or an octopus?

STEP 16

Find the box labeled "thesis."

This is the sentence that will state your opinion. In the blank, write "a parrot" or "an octopus" to complete the sentence with your opinion.

STEP 17

The papers shown on the screen are V.I.P.s—Very Important Papers.

Your teacher will tell you where to put them, so you will have them for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

Amazing job taking notes on both these amazing animals! You now have a thesis, which you'll read when you make your episode of *The Either / Or Explorer's* podcast.

Thesis statements are important to any piece of opinion writing because it's the sentence that states your opinion.

You might use a thesis when you're writing an essay for class, or a persuasive letter convincing the mayor of your town to build a skate park, or maybe a speech to be elected student body president. No matter what kind of opinion writing you're doing, your thesis is the first step.

In the next lesson, you'll plan out what your reasons for your opinion will be, so you can be a well-prepared podcast guest.

I'll see you next time. Bye-bye from me and Mr. Octopus!