

Lesson 5: Ramp Up Your Writing

UNIT: Skatepark

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Margaret.

When I'm finishing a piece of writing, I don't get to the end and say, "okay, all done!" I read my writing over and over, looking for any parts I want to change. Sometimes I write parts over and over, trying to get them exactly right.

You're getting ready to share a piece of writing. As a writer, you'll read your writing many times. Each time looking for one thing you might want to change. I have some ideas about how you can make your writing the best that it can be. Here's my countdown of ways to get your writing ready to share.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Before we begin, you'll need a piece of writing that you're going to edit and get ready to share. Get the draft you're working on now.

STEP 2

Number 5: Punctuation!

Every sentence needs to end with a period, question mark, or exclamation mark.

Discuss: This sentence is actually two sentences. Can you find where the missing period should go?

STEP 3

The period needs to go here, between these two sentences.

Now, look through your writing. Check the end of every sentence to make sure it ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation mark. If it doesn't, you can add one.

STEP 4

Number 4: Capitalization

Proper nouns are specific names of people, like me—Margaret.

Specific names of months and days like June, and specific places like the Venice Beach Skatepark. Proper nouns need to be capitalized even in the middle of a sentence.

Discuss: Where are the missing capital letters?

STEP 5

This letter needs to be capitalized since it's a name. And this one, since it's a specific name of a country.

Now look through your writing. Find the proper nouns in your writing and make sure they start with a capital letter, even in the middle of a sentence. If it doesn't, you can change the letter.

Here are some proper nouns you might look for in your writing. Notice that some of these words like Doctor, Mayor, and Sport Medicine Specialist are titles of people.

STEP 6

Number 3: Spelling

Discuss: Where are the spelling mistakes in this sentence?

STEP 7

These words were spelled incorrectly.

Now get your writing.

Use all the spelling strategies you know to help you spell your words. You can also use resources in your classroom and in your newsletter to help you if you're not sure how to spell a word.

If you see a misspelled word, you can fix your mistake.

STEP 8

Number 2: Check if it sounds right

Discuss: What part of this sentence doesn't sound right? If you want, you can whisper-read the sentence to yourself.

STEP 9

This part doesn't sound right.

Now read your writing to check to make sure it sounds right. You can read it in your head or whisper-read to yourself.

If you find a part that doesn't sound right, you can fix your sentence.

STEP 10

Number 1: Recopy your work

Your teacher will tell you where you'll write your final draft. When you recopy your writing, you might find parts that don't make sense or other parts you want to change. You can make changes as you recopy.

Get the papers you will need to recopy onto, then take your time to make your writing the neatest it can be.

STEP 11

To celebrate all the writing in this room, you'll get a chance to share your writing and read some of your classmate's writing.

Get your supplies to get started.

STEP 12

Set up your desk so others can read your letter. Put away everything except your letter, sticky notes, and a pencil.

Hold the pencil in your hand.

STEP 13

Watch this whole step before you do anything.

When your teacher tells you it's time to go, quietly get up and choose another desk to sit at. Bring your pencil with you. Remember, it's important not to touch things that don't belong to you while you're at another desk.

STEP 14

Now, you're at a different desk with a letter written by someone else. Quietly read your classmate's letter.

STEP 15

Now that you've read someone else's writing, write them a note on one of the sticky notes to tell them something you liked about their writing.

Here are some sentence ideas to help you get started. Don't forget to write your name on the sticky note and stick it on the desk when you're done.

STEP 16

Quietly walk to a new desk and follow the same steps again.

If you have time, you can read a third. Your teacher will let you know when it's time to return to your own desk.

WRAP UP

Wow, these letters to the mayor are amazing!

Just like Mia used her words to convince the mayor to build a skatepark. You also have the power to convince someone of a great idea with your words. You can do this in your own community, too. Keep looking for opportunities to use your words and make a difference. I'll see you next time.