Lesson 2: Lay Your Foundation

UNIT: Rock Camp

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret.

I don't know about you, but most of my life, I never really thought about rocks very much. But when my friend Max came back from Rock Camp, the things he told me about them were incredible.

He taught me that some rocks balance on top of each other because they're shaped by wind and water over millions of years. That there's an island where lots of giant stone sculptures were discovered and nobody knows why or how they got there. And he told me that even an ordinary looking rock sitting in your own backyard or at your local park might have a fossil hiding inside—a fossil is an imprint of a plant or animal that lived a long long time ago. That's so cool!

But here's the thing. Max's best friend, Hailey, hasn't heard any of this yet. She still thinks Rock Camp sounds pretty boring. That's why your letter to her convincing her to go to Rock Camp with Max is so important. Sometimes all it takes is one person sharing the right reasons to change someone's mind.

Max told me that when he arrived at Rock Camp, the first thing he had to learn were the camp rules:

Rule 1: Stay on the trail when hiking.

Rule 2: Only pick up camp-approved rocks.

When Max first heard them, all he could think was why? What's the reason we have to stay on the trail? What's the reason we can only pick up camp-approved rocks?

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Choose a rule. What do you think might be the reason for the rule?

HOOK 2

There are lots of great reasons for these two rules. When Max asked his camp counselor about them, she said, "We always stay on the trail because it keeps you safe and protects the environment. We only pick up camp-approved rocks because we try to leave nature the way we found it so others can enjoy it as well."

Max's counselor used the word "because" to connect each rule to a reason and each reason explained why the rule is important.

Once Max heard what the reasons were, he was convinced that they were really important. They were there to protect nature and to make sure Rock Camp stays amazing for everyone.

Max's best friend, Hailey, still thinks Rock Camp sounds pretty boring. Nobody has given her any reasons to like it.

Last lesson, you learned all about Rock Camp, took notes, and chose the two camp activities you want to write about.

Today, you're going to plan your reasons using your notes, and those reasons will then help convince Hailey to grab her backpack and head to Rock Camp next summer with Max.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

In order to help convince Hailey that Rock Camp is super fun, you'll be writing her a letter.

You'll first state your opinion describing what you think or feel. You'll then write about two camp activities that you think she'll like. You'll end your letter with a conclusion, restating your opinion and making a final statement about Hailey and Rock Camp.

Before writers write anything, they make a plan to help organize their thinking. They read their notes and then use those notes to plan their writing.

Today, you'll plan your opinion, identify reasons and details for both of your activities, and plan your conclusion.

Get your Planning worksheet and your Notes. Put them side by side, like this. Put the other pages off to the side for now.

STEP 3

On your Planning worksheet, find the "opinion" section. This is where you'll plan your opinion by coming up with the beginning of your opinion statement.

Hailey thinks Rock Camp is boring. So your opinion statement could start with something like, "Rock Camp is fun and you should go." Or, "I think you should give Rock Camp a try."

On your Planning worksheet, write the start of your opinion statement here. You can copy one of these or come up with your own.

STEP 4

An opinion statement needs to have reasons that support it.

Last lesson, you chose two activities that you think Hailey will like. You might have chosen rock painting and rock balancing. Or maybe you chose rock hunting and rock painting. Whichever two activities you picked will become your two reasons for why you think she'll like Rock Camp.

On your Notes worksheet, find the first activity that you chose.

On your Planning worksheet, find the "Reason 1" section. Write the name of your first activity onto your plan here.

STEP 5

The name of the activity is a great start, but it won't be enough to convince Hailey. You now need to add details to your reason. The notes you took for each activity are the details you can use.

On your Notes worksheet, find your notes for the first activity. If you want to add more notes, use your Camp Flyer and Max Letter worksheets to find more.

Read your notes and choose one note or detail that you think is exciting. Mark it with a check mark, like this.

STEP 6

Read your notes again, and choose at least one more detail that you think Hailey will like, and mark it with a check mark.

STEP 7

On your Planning worksheet, copy the checkmark details onto the "details" section for "reason 1".

STEP 8

Nice job, rockstars.

Find the "reason 2" section on your Planning worksheet. Write the name of the second activity that you chose onto your plan, here.

STEP 9

You now need to add details for your second activity.

Using your notes, choose at least two details for your second activity—what you think is exciting and that Hailey will like. Mark them with a check mark.

STEP 10

Copy the checkmark details onto your Planning worksheet.

STEP 11

You'll end your letter with a conclusion. A conclusion is a sentence that reminds the reader of your opinion and then leaves the reader with a final thought or statement.

For your letter to Hailey, your conclusion could start with something like, "That's why you would love Rock Camp." Or, "For these reasons, you should go to Rock Camp with Max."

On your Planning worksheet, write the start of your conclusion here.

STEP 12

The last part of your conclusion is where you can give a final thought or statement.

Maybe you want to write, "Rock Camp really does rock." Or, "I hope I see you at Rock Camp next year."

On your Planning worksheet, write your final thought here.

STEP 13

Read your writing plan. Make sure you have the beginning of your opinion statement, two reasons, at least two details for each of your reasons, and both parts of your conclusion.

WRAP UP

Nice planning, writers.

Now, when you're ready to write your letter to Hailey, this plan will help you describe your opinion, what the activities are like, and why they're so much fun.

Right now in the writing process, you're here—planning. In the next lesson, you'll use your plan to start drafting your letter to Hailey. Then later, you'll revise and edit your letter to make it exactly how you want it to be.

Once Hailey reads your letter, she'll finally be able to understand what Max means when he says, "Rock Camp rocks."

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