Lesson 3: Convince the Odd Jobs Show

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi. It's Margaret.

I remember watching my very first episode of the Odd Jobs show. It was all about a professional pizza taster. They're sometimes called food scientists, and companies hire them to taste new pizza recipes. They check how the pizza tastes, the texture of the crust, and give feedback before new pizza products go to grocery stores.

Then all of a sudden:

> *World record alert. Brian Elder made an incredible 206 pizzas in one hour, which means he's the fastest pizza maker in the world.*

The show would sometimes spotlight world records related to the jobs in each episode. I learned that there were world records for all sorts of things, like the most sticky notes stuck on your face in one minute, the fastest time to peel an orange, and the most bubbles blown in 60 seconds.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: If you could set any type of world record, what would it be?

HOOK 2

Maybe you said you'd want to set the record for creating the largest batch of gooey slime. Or you'd want the world record for playing the game Minecraft for the longest, most epic gaming session ever. You may have said something else, and that's great.

Whenever one of these world record alerts came on, it always felt really exciting and made me want to watch the episode until the very end. It wasn't until I was older and working as a professional writer that I realized that one of the ways these alerts made the show so exciting was because of the words that they used to describe each one.

For example: Helen Williams created a massive 12-foot wig. Therefore, she holds the record for the world's widest wig.

And this one: Ryoyu Kobayashi jumped a remarkable 835 feet on skis. For this reason, he holds the record for the longest ski jump.

"Massive" and "remarkable" are *descriptive words*. Writers use them to help make their writing more exciting and help readers picture things in their mind.

"Therefore" and "for this reason" are *transition phrases* that help show how ideas connect. They can also help you link your reasons to your opinion in your writing.

When writers use both kinds of words together, their writing can sound exciting and convincing.

You're helping the Odd Jobs show decide which job to feature in their final episode of the season. Should it be about wildlife photographers, or voice actors?

Today, you'll draft your opinion by following your outline and using descriptive words and transition phrases along the way.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

Get your desk ready to draft.

Place your lined paper, Outline, and Idea Bank in front of you. Place your other worksheets in a neat pile nearby.

Get a sharp pencil and anything else you need to get started on your writing.

STEP 3

When writers make a draft, they know that they might make changes to it along the way or later on. To make room for changes, you can write on every other line of your lined paper. That way, you have space to add or change sentences later on.

On your lined paper, draw a small "x" at the start of every other line to remind yourself to skip those lines for now.

STEP 4

Silently read your Idea Bank. It has descriptive words and transition phrases that you can use as you draft to make your writing as convincing as possible.

When you're done, show a silent thumbs up.

STEP 5

Your draft will have four paragraphs, just like your outline: an introduction featuring your thesis and reasons, two body paragraphs showing evidence for your reasons, and a conclusion restating your thesis and reasons, and ending with a final statement or call to action.

You may not have time to draft your entire opinion today, and that's okay.

Begin by using your outline to help you write your introduction in complete sentences. Then you can move on to the next parts of your outline. If you want, you can always go back to your notes and sources to find more information. Write as much of your opinion piece as you have time for today.

WRAP UP

Fantastic job, writers! You're on your way to writing a very convincing opinion piece about which job you think would be best for the Odd Jobs show.

You used reasons and evidence to convince your reader, and you used descriptive words and transition phrases to show all of the reasons why the job you picked is the best choice for the episode.

So far, you've gathered information and taken notes, made a plan by creating an outline, and started a draft of your opinion. It's okay if you didn't get to finish your draft today. You can always finish it at another time.

In the next lesson, you'll revise and edit your writing to make it exactly how you want it to be. You'll then submit your final opinion piece to the Odd Jobs website, casting your vote, and hopefully convincing the Odd Jobs producers to pick your show.

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