

Mini-Lesson: Supports in Expository Writing

Intention (Skill): Supporting a Thesis Statement in Expository Writing

Teaching Point (Strategy): Expository writers support their thesis in a way that is interesting to the reader by using narrative vignettes and lists.

Connection: I've heard that you guys are doing some expository writing. I've also heard that you're really great at coming up with good opening and closing statements. You've got the hardest parts down! Today, I want to teach you how expository writers support their thesis in a way that is interesting to the reader by using narrative vignettes and lists.

Teach: Let me show you what I mean. When we read *Super-Completely and Totally the Messiest*, you may not have realized that it's structured like expository writing. Now, as far as I know, it's a work of fiction, but it has a clear thesis statement, lots of support, and a reflection at the end. Judith Viorst made the narrator, Olivia, an expository writer! Her thesis is easy to spot: "My sister Sophie is super-completely and totally the messiest." Now let's look at how she supports that thesis in a way that is interesting to the reader by using narrative vignettes (small stories) and lists. (Show marked pages.)

Did you notice how she supported her thesis, then restated it? And her story didn't keep going on forever and ever. Neither did her list. But they were both effective because they supported the thesis in a way that is interesting.

Active Engagement: Now it's your turn to try it. Look at your latest piece of expository writing, and put your finger on your thesis statement. I'm going to give you a minute to think about a small story or narrative vignette and a list that could support your thesis statement, just like Olivia did. When you've thought of it, turn to your partner and write it in the air. (Listen in, share if appropriate.)

Link: So today, or ANY time you're writing supports for a thesis statement, I hope you'll remember to support your thesis in a way that is interesting to the reader by using narrative vignettes and lists.

Share: (Look for students effectively using strategy. Make them famous!)