LESSON 10

Teacher Background

These “Cut and Paste” activities take the previous lessons one step further by requiring students to match detail sentences with appropriate main ideas and then, construct the three paragraphs.

The class is given a TOPIC and a number of broad yet distinct main idea or main reason sentences. They are also given a collection of relevant detail sentences. Students must group detail sentences beneath the corresponding main idea/main reason sentence.

As students gain proficiency with this, some extraneous detail sentences may be added to the mix, requiring them to gauge the relevancy of information, adding or deleting it accordingly.

Objective

Students learn to organize information in a logical fashion, based on the both the OPINION and the EXPOSITORY PILLAR FRAMEWORKS.

Procedure

1. Photocopy Festivals of the World for expository writing, or, if you’d like to focus on opinion writing, use Shut Down Your Screen. Before class, cut off the strips containing the Introduction paragraph, three Main Idea sentence strips and the Conclusion paragraph.

2. Glue each strip (5 in all: intro, 3 main ideas, conclusion) to the tops of individual pieces of construction paper. These will represent each section of the pillar. Post them sequentially, one beneath the other.

3. Make a single copy of detail sentences and cut into strips along dotted lines and set aside.

4. Explain to the class that, together, you will be reconstructing an expository piece of writing (or, for the Shut Down Your Screen example, an opinion essay). Share the TOPIC, as well as the introduction, main ideas (or reasons) and conclusion. Their job will be to study the detail sentences and decide where they belong.

5. Distribute the detail sentence strips to the children so that everyone has at least one. Have them read it, and think about which main idea or reason it supports or illustrates.

6. Call students into groups based on the main idea or reason sentences that their detail supports. (You will have three groups.) Give them their corresponding construction paper “paragraphs” with their main idea or main reason pasted across the top. Their job will be to organize the detail sentences. Check them as they work.

7. Finally, return the evidence strips to their appropriate paragraph beneath the main idea/reason. Put the entire piece together and read it aloud. Proceed in similar fashion with Shut Down Your Screen.

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8. FINDING EVIDENCE IN THE TEXT - Next, as a way to begin to prepare students to locate evidence in text, project p. 116:

FIND THE EVIDENCE:

• Some of the coldest weather can be found in China.
• Cosmetics made with mud are said to enhance the skin.
• Tomatoes are an acidic food.
• South Korea is a coastal country.
• China, Canada, Japan, and Norway have at least one thing in common.
• La Tomatina has been going on for over 70 years.
• Many tomatoes are needed during the La Tomatina festival.

Explain that each of these statements can be supported by a specific detail from the text, Festivals of the World. Students’ task will be to locate the evidence that supports each statement. Discuss how they can narrow their search while gleaning the supporting evidence they need. (Figure out which paragraph would likely contain the information, based on the main ideas.) When they locate their supporting evidence they should take that particular sentence strip and tape it beside the related statement as proof.

ANSWER KEY:

• Some of the coldest weather can be found in China. It is held in Harbin, China where the howling winds from Siberia bring some of the coldest weather on earth.
• Cosmetics made with mud are said to enhance the skin. The soft, rich mud is said to be good for the skin.
• Tomatoes are an acidic food. If you join the battle, remember to wear goggles because the acidy tomato pulp could sting your eyes.
• South Korea is a coastal country. The Mud Festival takes place in the beach front community of Boryeony.
• China, Canada, Japan, and Norway have at least one thing in common. Similar celebration of snow are held yearly in Canada, Japan, and Norway.
• La Tomatina has been going on for over 70 years. The unusual fiesta started with a tomato fight among children in 1945 and has been celebrated every year since.
• Many tomatoes are needed during the La Tomatina festival. More than 200,000 tomatoes are thrown.

Address Shut Down Your Screen in similar fashion using the statements below:

• Watching too much TV can be linked to obesity. As everybody knows, electronic entertainment eats into the time we have for activities that keep us fit and healthy. Inactivity could cause you to gain an unhealthy amount of weight.
• It’s not a good idea to have a TV in your bedroom. Having a TV in your bedroom doubles your risk for developing a weight problem.
• Excessive TV watching can decrease your attention span. Once you’ve unplugged yourself, you might notice that you can concentrate for longer periods of time at school.
• Playing solitary video games can detract from relationships. Some people get so engaged in a video game that they isolate themselves from others.
• Shut Down Your Screen Week is a national event. This is a week during which people across the nation agree to unplug their electronic devices and experience life without the flickering glow of the small screen.
BE A TEXT DETECTIVE!

FIND THE EVIDENCE

Festivals of the World

• Some of the coldest weather can be found in China.
• Cosmetics made with mud are said to enhance the skin.
• Tomatoes are an acidic food.
• South Korea is a coastal country.
• China, Canada, Japan, and Norway have at least one thing in common.
• La Tomatina has been going on for over 70 years.
• Many tomatoes are needed during the La Tomatina festival.

REMEMBER: YOU DON’T NEED TO READ THE TEXT BEGINNING TO END! USE MAIN IDEAS TO DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION AND THEN SKIM AND SCAN. POST YOUR EVIDENCE BESIDE EACH STATEMENT.
As students reconstruct these expository pieces, valuable conversations will take place regarding the logical linking of one idea to the next. For example, sentences that begin with transitional phrases such as “Also” or “Not only that” cannot logically appear as the first detail sentence in a paragraph. Each cut and paste piece has been reconstructed here for your use. This is not to suggest, however, that it is the only logical arrangement. It is intended only as a guide.

Keep in mind that these cut and paste activities can be done with your whole class or with small groups - for example, reproduce the sheets for groups of three students, assigning each main idea to one child within the group. In this way, a number of groups working on the same topic can compare their finished compilations. You students will learn from each other as they discuss the logical placement of details together.

You may also want to make this lesson your own by creating several of your own Cut and Paste activities based on topics or themes you are studying in class. This creates cross-curricular connections and reinforces both the writing instruction and the content.

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Sample Reconstruction

NOTE: These reconstructions lack some of the transitional phrases and other linguistic elements that make a finished piece read smoothly. That is necessary so that your students can use their own judgment to organize the detail sentences. Additionally, each detail sentence was written to relate to the main idea so clearly that it would be recognized on its own. Remember, the objective of this lesson is not to create a polished finished piece, but rather, to pair specific details with appropriate main ideas.

Festivals of the World (expository)

Every year, dozens of festivals are celebrated around the world. Some of these exciting gatherings honor cultural traditions and others are just plain fun! China’s International Snow and Ice Festival, La Tomatina and South Korea’s Mud Festival are widely considered to be three of the very best.

China’s International Snow and Ice Festival is a famous tribute to the joys and icy beauty of winter. It is held in Harbin, China where the howling winds from Siberia bring some of the coldest weather on earth. Similar celebrations of snow are held yearly in Canada, Japan and Norway. You’ll see full size buildings, including a hotel, made entirely of crystal clear blocks of ice. Fans of winter sports will enjoy the ski races and snowboarding competitions. Don’t get lost in the ice maze. Take a ride down the world’s longest ice slide. Another hot attraction at this very cool festival is a reindeer parade. Everywhere you look there are colossal snow sculptures of landmarks such as New York’s Empire State building and the Great Wall of China. The festival ends with a bang as visitors are invited to smash the ice sculptures with ice picks.

Brace yourself for the world’s biggest food fight at La Tomatina. This goofy Spanish festival has people, young and old, throwing ripe tomatoes at each other! As you have probably guessed, La Tomatina means “the tomato” in Spanish. La Tomatina takes place at the end of August, when locally grown tomatoes are bursting with ripeness. There are fireworks and parades on the day before the rowdy food fight. If you want to join the battle, remember
to wear goggles because the acidy tomato pulp could sting your eyes. Squish the tomatoes before you throw them so that nobody gets hurt. The epic food fight lasts for one hour. More than 200,000 tomatoes are thrown. The streets are hosed down after the battle and people clean up by jumping in a nearby river. The unusual fiesta started with a tomato fight among children in 1945 and has been celebrated every year since.

Come to South Korea to fling some of the world’s finest mud! The South Korea Mud festival started in 1998 to promote cosmetics made with local mud. The soft, rich mud is said to be good for the skin. This muddy festival kicks off with fireworks in mid-July and lasts for two weeks. Dozens of people get splattered in the Great Mud Bath. There’s a slide that sends you sprawling into a huge vat of oozing mud. Don’t miss the mud wrestling matches. You can also paint your face and body with brightly colored mud. But remember, if you’re not muddy enough, you could be locked up in mud prison. The Mud Festival takes place in the beach front community of Boryeony. To rinse off the mud, just jump into the sea!

Tip your hat to old man winter at China’s International Ice and Snow Festival. Toss a tomato at La Tomatina. Get down and dirty at South Korea’s Mud Festival. It is easy to understand why fun-loving visitors from around the world flock to these exciting festivals. Without a doubt, they are a rollicking good time.
Festivals of the World

Introduction:

Every year, dozens of festivals are celebrated around the world. Some of these exciting gatherings honor cultural traditions and others are just plain fun! China’s International Snow and Ice Festival, La Tomatina and South Korea’s Mud Festival are widely considered to be three of the very best.

MAIN IDEA #1:
China’s International Snow and Ice Festival is a famous tribute to the joys and icy beauty of winter.

MAIN IDEA #2:
Brace yourself for the world’s biggest food fight at La Tomatina.

MAIN IDEA #3:
Come to South Korea to fling some of the world’s finest mud!

Conclusion:

Tip your hat to old man winter at China’s International Ice and Snow Festival. Toss a tomato at La Tomatina. Get down and dirty at South Korea’s Mud Festival. It is easy to understand why fun-loving visitors from around the world flock to these exciting festivals. Without a doubt, they are a rollicking good time.
Festivals of the World

Similar celebrations of snow are held yearly in Canada, Japan and Norway.

It is held in Harbin, China where the howling winds from Siberia bring some of the coldest weather on earth.

Another hot attraction at this very cool festival is a reindeer parade.

Fans of winter sports will enjoy the ski races and snowboarding competitions.

Don’t get lost in the ice maze!

Take a ride down the world’s longest ice slide.

You’ll see full size buildings, including a hotel, made entirely of crystal clear blocks of ice.

Everywhere you look there are colossal snow sculptures of landmarks such as New York’s Empire State Building and the Great Wall of China.

The festival ends with a bang as visitors are invited to smash the snow sculptures with ice picks.

This goofy Spanish festival has people, young and old, throwing ripe tomatoes at each other.

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The epic food fight lasts for one hour.

More than 200,000 tomatoes are thrown.

The streets are hosed down after the battle and people clean up by jumping into a nearby river.

If you want to join the battle, remember to wear goggles because the acidy tomato pulp could sting your eyes.

Squish the tomatoes before you throw them so that nobody gets hurt.

La Tomatina takes place at the end of August when locally grown tomatoes are bursting with ripeness.

The unusual fiesta started with a tomato fight among children in 1945 and has been celebrated every year since.

There are fireworks and parades on the day before the rowdy food fight.

As you have probably guessed, La Tomatina means “the tomato” in Spanish.

The South Korea Mud Festival started in 1998 to promote cosmetics made with local mud.

The Mud Festival takes place in the beach front community of Boryeong.
To rinse off the mud, just dive into the sea.

The soft, rich mud is said to be good for the skin.

This muddy festival kicks off with fireworks in mid-July and lasts for two weeks.

Dozens of people get splattered in the Great Mud Bath.

There’s a slide that sends you sprawling into a huge vat of oozing mud.

Don’t miss the mud wrestling matches.

You can also paint your face and body with brightly colored mud.

But remember, if you’re not muddy enough, you could be locked up in mud prison!