



Subject: English Language Arts

Grade Level: High School

DI Strategy: Split Screen/Flexible Grouping

Expository Writing Split Screen

Day 1 (Observation/Assessment)

Students were introduced to various types of leads that can be incorporated into the introduction of an expository writing piece: *question lead, factual lead, snapshot lead, etc.*

Students were then given an expository writing graphic organizer to complete after choosing from the following writing prompts:

- 1 *Inventions are all around us. Think of an invention that has been especially helpful or harmful to people, and explain why.*
- 2 *All of us have something we like to do in our spare time. Think about the activity you enjoy most. Now write to explain why this is your favorite activity.*

Students were to complete the beginning section of their graphic organizer, which I checked upon completion. During this time I noted which students used an attention grabbing lead and which students used basic leads.

Day 2 (Split Screen)

To start class, I displayed strong student examples from the previous day to review “attention grabbing” leads. I then modeled how to complete the remaining sections of the graphic organizer. Students who displayed strong understanding from the previous day were in Group 1, and students who needed extra support were in Group 2. Group 1 worked independently to complete the remaining sections of their graphic organizers. If completed early, they were to partner up with a peer in their group and offer two praises and two pushes (moving onto a new partner if time permitted). Providing meaningful feedback was modeled prior to breaking into groups. Group 2 worked with me in close proximity to the graphic organizer displayed on the projector. These students brainstormed together to help each other develop their leads. During this time, I was also able to verbally assist students through the completion of each section of their graphic organizer.

This Split Screen was successful in offering Group 1 the opportunity to write independently as well as have the chance to offer meaningful feedback to other students. It also was successful in offering Group 2 the opportunity to complete their graphic organizer with the support of the teacher and their peers through collaborative discussion.



Name: _____

Topic #: _____

Informational Writing Prompts

1. Inventions are all around us. Think of an invention that has been especially helpful or harmful to people, and explain why.
2. All of us have something we like to do in our spare time. Think about the activity you enjoy most. Now describe the activity and explain why it is your favorite.

Types of Leads

SNAPSHOT LEAD

Start with a Snapshot. *When you paint a picture, you draw the reader in. Notice the difference between these two leads to a report about ice-skating.*

- **Boring**
Ice-skating is my favorite sport.
- **Better**
It's ten degrees below zero and the river is frozen a foot thick. It makes snapping sounds like the limbs of trees cracking. A long figure glides along the black ice, moving toward the city. The only sound is the scraping of each blade as it bites into the river. That's me doing my favorite sport, ice-skating.

QUESTION LEAD

Start with a strongly stated question your readers might have. *In some ways all writing is about trying to answer our best questions. A strong question is one we all want to know the answer to.*

- **Weakly-stated**
In this paper I will attempt to answer the question why history is important.
- **Better**
What's the point of studying history? Who cares what happened long ago? After all, aren't the people in history books dead?



Questions ?

Beginning

Fact #1

Middle

Fact #2

Fact #3

Ending