Organize Research Using a Planning Chart

1. Focus

Explain Organizing Research

**Say:** We decided on topics for our informational reports. Then we researched our topics. Now that we have information from our research, we need to organize it before we begin writing our drafts. Today I’m going to show you how to use an informational report planning chart to help you organize your writing ideas.

Model Organizing Research

Display the Informational Report Planning chart on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>How foods were discovered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus:</td>
<td>Popsicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Question:</td>
<td>How were popsicles invented?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Points</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frank Epperson discovered them by accident.</td>
<td>1. He left a soda drink outside. 2. Drink froze and he had iced pop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank used idea when he was an adult.</td>
<td>1. He started a business selling his frozen pops. 2. He called them Epsicles. 3. Frank’s kids called them Pop’s ‘sicles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popsicles were born.</td>
<td>1. Frank sold the name to company in New York. 2. Popsicles became popular everywhere.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Tell how popular they are: two billion sold every year; more than thirty flavors

Sample think-aloud. **Say:** I’m going to use this planning chart to model how to organize my ideas for an informational report.

**Topic and focus. Say:** The topic I chose when I narrowed my focus from a list of brainstormed ideas was how certain foods were invented. I decided to focus on Popsicles. I’ll write this on the planning chart. Model jotting down your ideas on the chart.

**Research question. Say:** Now that I have a focus, I need to think of a research question. My question will help me stay focused when I research. Since my topic is how foods were discovered and I’m thinking about popsicles, my question can be “How were popsicles invented?” Model writing the research question on the chart.
Main points. Say: I found out that a boy named Frank Epperson discovered them by accident. He left a flavored soda drink on the porch overnight and it froze. When he grew up, he started making ice pops called EPSicles, but his kids started calling them Pop’s ’sicles. I found out that he sold his idea to a company in New York. Popsicles became popular everywhere. Model writing on the chart.

Conclusion. Ask: How do I want to conclude my report? I found out some facts about how popular Popsicles are so I think I will conclude with that information. Model writing on the chart.

2. Rehearse

Practice Organizing Research

Invite students to begin organizing their own ideas for an informational report based on the research they have conducted. If you have students who have not yet done their research, have them work with a partner who is ready to organize ideas.

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Ideas

Bring students together and invite volunteers to share the ideas they organized on the chart. Use some, or all, of the following questions to guide your discussion:

- Did you find that you had enough research details to support the main ideas you want to discuss in your report?
- What should you do if you find, as you’re organizing, that you don’t have enough information? (Students should recognize that they may need to conduct additional research.)

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We just learned that we can use a planning chart to organize our research for our informational reports. We can decide on the main points and the details we want to include.

Make BLM 5 available to students who are ready to organize ideas for their informational reports during independent writing time. During conferences, reinforce students’ use of this and other strategies using the prompts on your conferring flip chart.

4. Share

Bring the class together. Invite volunteers to share some of the information on their planning charts. Ask them how using a planning chart is helping them organize their ideas for an informational report.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Invite beginning ELs to draw pictures of the topics for their informational reports. Encourage them to discuss their topics in any way they can, using words and/or gestures. Write important vocabulary on self-stick notes and model using the words in sentences.

Intermediate and Advanced

Encourage ELs to use the following sentence frames to help them talk about their informational reports:

- My topic is ______.
- The focus of my report is ______.
- My research question is ______.
- One main point is ______.