Illustrate Your Personal Narrative

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
- Learn strategies for adding illustrations.
- Generate ideas for illustrations in a group.
- Discuss how to apply the strategies to their own personal narratives.

Preparation

Materials Needed
- Chart paper and markers
- Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation
If you are not using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text on chart paper prior to the mini-lesson. If necessary, copy the sentence frames from “Strategies to Support ELs” on chart paper.

1. Focus

Explain Illustrating a Personal Narrative

Ask: When you read a story, what types of things catch your attention? Encourage students to generate their own ideas about how certain illustrations grab their attention and make them want to read a story.

Say: Many stories include illustrations or pictures that help a reader understand or visualize certain parts of the story. These illustrations can help a reader imagine what is happening in the story or even make predictions about what will happen next.

Model Illustrating a Personal Narrative

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

1. We were having a wonderful time riding together. Then we came to a steep hill. I looked down the hill. Should I ride down it? I wasn’t sure if I should. But I did. I don’t know why. Maybe I wanted to prove that I could.

2. Halfway down the hill, my bike began to shake. It was out of control! I was screaming! At least I think I was.

Modeling Text

Say: Let’s imagine that I’ve written this personal narrative. I have already revised and edited the text to make it the best it can be. I have made sure my story makes sense and includes details that will keep my reader interested in my story. Now I’m ready to publish my story and I want to include illustrations that will make the story more enjoyable for the reader.

Read example 1. Say: I want my readers to understand why this hill was so important and why I had to stop to think before riding down it. This is a great place to add an illustration. I need to draw the hill from my perspective, looking down to the bottom of the hill. If I make it look really steep and scary, my readers will understand how I felt. Model sketching a steep hill from the perspective of someone looking down.

Read example 2. Say: I remember how scared I was. I want my readers to see my fear, so I’ll add an illustration here that shows me rushing down the hill, my hair flying out behind me, my mouth open in a scream. Model drawing the sketch on chart paper.
2. Rehearse

**Practice Illustrating a Personal Narrative**

Invite students to work with a partner to decide where to add an illustration to the personal narratives they have been working on. Ask them to tell their partner why they think this is a good place to include an illustration and what they want the illustration to show.

**Share and Discuss**

Bring students together and invite them to talk about their choice of illustration. Discuss with them how adding illustrations improves their personal narratives.

---

### Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**

Display books from your classroom that include illustrations. Encourage students to talk about them using words and gestures, telling what they see in the illustrations and what they can learn from them.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the partner activity. Support oral language with simple sentence frames such as:

*This is a good place for an illustration because ______.*

*I want my illustration to show ______.*

**All Levels**

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share this English/Spanish cognate: *ilustración/la ilustración*.

---

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

**Say:** We learned that illustrating a personal narrative can help the reader understand and connect to the events of a story. Illustrations can also make people want to read more of your story. Keep this in mind as you publish your personal narratives.

Encourage students to apply this strategy when they prepare to publish their personal narratives. 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 the illustrations they created and explain why they chose to illustrate the events they did.