Add Text Features to Your Procedural Text

1. Focus

Explain Including Text Features

Say: Writers choose to use different styles when they publish their writing. They may want to use bullets to show a list or they may choose to use numbers. They may make some text bold or use colored text. Today we will look at ways we can publish our procedural text using different text features and styles.

Model Including Text Features

Show students samples of different kinds of procedural text. Make sure that you have a variety in presentation and text features. Include the mentor text “How to Make a Grilled Cheese Sandwich” in the examples. Point to different features in the texts as you talk about them.

Titles and headings. Say: These procedural texts all tell how to do something, but they all look a bit different. Some of the features make the texts easier to read, and some make the text look interesting to the reader. Procedural texts usually include headings to help the reader recognize which part tells about the materials and which part gives the steps. Headings make the text easier to read. These examples all have headings, but the way the headings look is different. Some headings use bold letters and some don’t. Some use a fancy way of writing. The headings are designed to go with the type of procedure the text is describing. They are designed so that they attract the reader’s attention and make the text look nice.

Fonts. Say: Look at the different sizes and styles of the letters in these examples. I see some that use color to emphasize words. I see others that use bold or italics to highlight words. When we publish our procedural texts, we need to choose features that fit what we are explaining and make our texts look attractive and inviting to read.
2. Rehearse

**Practice Including Text Features**

Invite students to work with a partner to look at the procedural texts they have been drafting. Ask them to discuss with their partners ways that they could add features such as headings, bullets, colored letters, and so forth to make their texts look interesting.

**Share and Discuss**

Bring students together and invite students to talk about the process of including text features in their procedural text. How does adding special features make their writing look inviting to the reader?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

**Say:** We learned that writers include text features in their steps in a procedure to help make the writing easier to follow but also to make their text look more interesting to the reader. Keep this in mind as you choose where you should include text features and what you want your text features to look like.

Encourage students to apply this strategy when they prepare to publish their procedural texts. 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 text features they used in their procedural texts and to explain their choices.

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**Strategies to Support ELs**

**Beginning**

Display a familiar text with text features. Point to a heading. **Say:** This is a heading. *A heading makes the text easier to read.* Have students point to the heading and repeat after you. Repeat for other text features such as bullets.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the partner activity.