Illustrate the Borders of Your Informational Report

1. Focus

Explain Illustrating the Borders of the Final Draft

Ask: What are some of the things that make you want to read a nonfiction text? (Allow responses.) I think the more visually appealing the text is, the more I want to read it. One of the first things I do when I am choosing a book is flip through the pages. This helps me see what type of graphics and pictures are included. I like to read books that include visuals. These can include photos, illustrations, charts, and so on. Another type of visual is a border. Borders can be found along the edges of a text. They can be in many different colors and textures. Today we are going to look at different types of illustrated borders.

Model Illustrating the Borders of the Final Draft

Show students examples of nonfiction texts that have interesting, illustrated borders.

Say: Sometimes when we’ve written our drafts, and then edited and revised them, we can be unhappy with the way the pages look. They might look too plain. One thing we can do to make the pages more appealing is to add borders. Let’s look at some of the borders used in these nonfiction books. This book is about animals, so it uses an animal theme in its border. This book is about gardening and it has pictures of flowers as the border on the pages.

Display the pages of the mentor text that include borders or use the interactive whiteboard resources.

Say: This mentor text is about soccer. What do I notice about the borders of this book? The borders are actually a photo of grass that could be found on a soccer field. This border fits the theme of the book and makes an appropriate and interesting addition to this book.

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
• Learn strategies for illustrating the borders of the final draft of an informational report.
• Generate ideas in a group for creating borders.
• Discuss how to apply the strategies to their own informational writing reports.

Preparation

Materials Needed
• Mentor text: Soccer World Magazine
• Chart paper and markers
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation
From the classroom or school library, gather examples of nonfiction texts that have illustrated borders.
2. Rehearse

Practice Illustrating the Borders of the Final Draft

Invite students to focus on what kinds of borders they could use in the informational reports they are drafting. Encourage students to think about the content of their reports to come up with ideas. They should jot down different ideas for a border and then share their ideas with a partner.

Share and Discuss

Bring students together and invite students to talk about the process of choosing a border for their informational reports.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that including a border that relates to the content is a nice addition to a published piece of writing. We saw how the author used grass as a border in the informational report about soccer. You can use other types of borders to help your readers get a feel for your topic. Keep this in mind as you publish your informational reports.

Encourage students to focus on adding a border to their writing when they prepare to publish their informational reports.

4. Share

Bring the class together. Invite volunteers to share the border ideas they developed and explain why they made their choices. Discuss how this step helped them create an informational writing piece that is visually appealing to the reader.

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Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**

Work one on one with ELs. Help them take a piece of their own writing and create an illustrated border for it. You may want to have students view different types of illustrated borders in sample nonfiction texts.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the partner activity.

**All Levels**

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share these English/Spanish cognates: border/el borde; illustration/la ilustración.