Add Graphic Features to Your Informational Report

1. Focus

Explain Including Graphic Features

Say: Most informational text includes some type of graphic features. Graphic features give more information about the writing. Graphic features include pictures, labels, and captions. They can include things like pictographs. Writers include graphic features to make their writing more interesting and to give extra information about the text. As we get ready to publish our reports, let’s think about the text and graphic features we want to include.

Model Including Graphic Features

Show students different grade-appropriate nonfiction books and point out the different kinds of graphics.

Say: Here are many different informational reports. They include different types of graphic features. They all include photographs or illustrations. These provide information for readers and help them understand the topic better. Some of these texts include labels. This helps tell the reader what the picture is about. Others include captions. This gives more information about the picture than a label does. Here is an example of a simple graph. This tells the readers in pictures what the text is explaining. Using graphic features in our informational reports is important. We need to provide the most useful features to help our readers better understand our reports.
2. Rehearse

**Practice Including Graphic Features**

Invite students to work with a partner using the drafts for their informational reports. They should decide on one graphic they would add to each draft and be able to explain why.

**Share and Discuss**

Bring students together and invite them to talk about the process of including graphic features in their writing. How did the strategy of rereading help them identify the graphic features that would work best in the text?

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### Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**

Display familiar books with graphic features from your classroom. Point to each one. *Say: This is a ______. It tells us ______.*

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the partner activity. To support oral language, give students simple sentence frames such as:

*This graphic feature is a ______.*
*This graphic feature tells me ______.*

**All Levels**

If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share these English/Spanish cognates: *informational/informativo(a); graphic/grafico(a).*

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3. Independent Writing and Conferring

**Say:** We learned that authors include graphic features in their informational reports to help support the text and to provide extra information to their readers. Keep this in mind as you choose which graphic features to include in your informational reports.

Encourage students to apply this strategy when they prepare to publish their own informational reports. 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 graphic features they chose to include in their informational reports and to explain their choices.