Create a Strong Ending for an Informational Report

1. Focus

Explain Strong Endings

Say: When I finish a good piece of nonfiction writing, I usually think, “Wow, I want to know more about this subject!” That’s how I’d like the reader to react to my informational report. One tool I use is a strong ending. I want to end my report in a way that sparks the reader’s desire to learn more. There are different ways to end an informational report. Today I’m going to show you how to use two ways: summarizing the text and asking a question.

Model Drafting Strong Endings

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

| Potato chips are not just an American snack anymore. Each country puts its own taste on their chips. A vending machine with potato chips from around the world might include cucumber, squid, kiwi, or mushroom-flavored chips! What will they think of next? What will your next chip be? |

Modeling Text

Ask: Did you like the way this text ended? Why? (Allow responses.) The text for this ending is about the history of potato chips. And the ending is about how potato chips are now available around the world. The summary part of the ending is a good way to pull all the little pieces of the text together. The history in this text shows how we now have potato chips all over the world. That’s amazing. That part of the ending really catches my attention. Then the author continues by asking two questions. He asks, “What will they think of next?” and “What will your next chip be?” By using the questions at the end, the writer has helped the reader connect to the topic. This leaves the reader thinking at the end of the report. This is an example of a strong ending that uses both summarizing and questions.

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

• Learn the importance of a strong ending in an informational report.
• Confer with a partner about strong endings for their report.
• Discuss how to apply this strategy to their independent writing.

Preparation

Materials Needed

• Chart paper and markers
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.
2. Rehearse

**Practice Strong Endings**

Invite students to confer with a partner on how they could write a strong ending for the report they are working on. Partners should take notes of ideas they get during their peer discussion so that they may refer to them during independent writing time.

**Share and Discuss Strong Endings**

With the whole class, invite students to report on the results of their peer conference.

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3. Independent Writing and Conferring

**Say:** We just learned that we should finish our reports with a strong ending. We might want to end by summarizing information or we might end with a question. Remember to draft a strong ending that leaves the reader thinking about your report.

Encourage students to focus on their endings when they draft their 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 students together. Invite two or three students who have written a strong ending to their report to read aloud the endings to the rest of the class. Discuss the factors that make each ending strong.

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**Strategies to Support ELs**

**Beginning**

While other students complete the practice activity (or during independent writing time), work with beginning ELs to help them draft their informational report ideas orally or in written text using any language they have.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers for the practice activity.