Edit for Capitalization

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

• Learn how to edit an informational report for capitalization.
• Edit practice sentences and share their edits with the class.
• Discuss how they can apply this skill to their independent writing.

Preparation

Materials Needed

• Chart paper and markers
• Proofreading Symbols BLM (from Additional Resources)
• Informational Reports Checklist (page 65)
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling and practice texts (with errors) onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Editing for Capitalization

Say: Once we have our informational reports reading the way we want them to, we still need to edit our writing for grammar and punctuation. We want our reports to be the best they can be. We don’t want to publish our work with errors in it! At the editing stage, we need to look very carefully at our writing to make sure we fix all of our mistakes. Today I’m going to show you how I edit an informational report to look for and correct errors in capitalization.

Model Editing for Capitalization

Display the modeling text (with errors) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to listen as you read the sentences aloud and look for mistakes in capitalization.

Modeling Text

1. Most Bbutterflies live for about one month.
2. bBut scientists, including those at the wWildlife cConservation sSociety, know that some butterflies live longer.
3. The monarchs that fly Ssouth are called migrants.

After sentence 1. Say: The word Butterflies is capitalized, but this isn’t correct. I know we don’t capitalize common nouns, like the name of an animal group. I’ll change the uppercase B into a lowercase letter b. Model how you make this change.

After sentence 2. Say: Oops! I forgot to capitalize the first word in this sentence. I know that we always begin a sentence with an uppercase letter. I need to fix that. I also see that the name of the wildlife group is not capitalized. This is a proper noun, a name, so it should be capitalized. I need to capitalize the beginning letters in Wildlife Conservation Society. Model inserting these changes into the modeling text.

After sentence 3. Say: The word South is capitalized. I can’t remember if we capitalize words like north and south. I can check by using a dictionary. (Model looking up the word south.) The dictionary shows me that the word south doesn’t have a capital when it is used this way. I’ll change the S to lowercase.
**2. Rehearse**

**Practice Editing for Capitalization**

Display the practice text (with errors) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Read it aloud to students.

| The males die in Mexico. Along the way, the females die. It is April. In a few weeks, the eggs will hatch. |

**Practice Text**

Ask students to work with a partner to edit the sentences for capitalization. Students should write down their edited sentences and be prepared to tell the class the changes they made in capitalization and why each example needs to be capitalized.

**Share Edits for Capitalization**

Invite volunteers to share how they edited each sentence for capitalization. Students should identify which words they capitalized and why. Use this opportunity to review specific rules of capitalization. Discuss and support students’ use of proofreading symbols, too.

**3. Independent Writing and Conferring**

Say: Today we learned that good writers edit their reports to make sure they have capitalized all words that need to be capitalized. During independent writing time, remember that when you are editing your report, you need to check your use of capital letters.

Review the Informational Reports Checklist and encourage students who are at the editing stage of their independent writing to focus on capitalization and other conventions of good writing. During conferences, use the prompts on your conferring flip chart to reinforce students’ independent or peer editing.

**4. Share**

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to talk about their experiences editing their informational reports for capitalization and other basic writing conventions.

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**Strategies to Support ELs**

**Beginning**

Support students’ use of capitalization by writing examples of their names and the cities, states, or countries they come from. For example, point to a student and say: Maria is from Miami. Lee is from Beijing. Write the sentences on the board and underline the capital letters.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the “Practice Editing for Capitalization” partner activity. For extra practice, invite each student to construct a sentence using a friend’s name and a city that friend has visited. Let him or her write the sentence and practice deciding which words to capitalize.