Add Thoughts and Feelings to Persuade the Audience

1. Focus

Explain Adding Thoughts and Feelings to Persuade Your Audience

Say: When I write a persuasive book review, I want to convince my audience to agree with my opinions about a book. I discuss what I liked and didn’t like about the book. I add my thoughts and feelings to the review to strengthen my voice. So long as I tell my thoughts and feelings in a reasonable way, revealing my thinking can make my voice sound honest and get readers to trust me. Today I’m going to show you how including thoughts and feelings in your book reviews can help you persuade readers.

Model How Writers Voice Thoughts and Feelings to Persuade Their Audience

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

Modeling Text

1. The woman’s cat and hen tell the Ugly Duckling that he has no useful skills. The Ugly Duckling feels even worse about himself. I wished that I could tell the Ugly Duckling not to listen to those creatures. Who were they to pass judgment on him?

2. My only complaint is that the story ends too quickly. I wish that Andersen had written more.

After first example. Say: In the paragraphs leading up to this example, the writer has simply described the story. I’ve learned that the Ugly Duckling keeps getting rejected and insulted by others. The author hasn’t told me her own thoughts on these story events until the sentence, “I wished that I could tell the Ugly Duckling not to listen to those creatures.” At this point, I hear the author’s voice strongly. She has used the word I to make a statement in the first person. The writer has inserted her feelings to tell us a detail of the story she didn’t like. When she shares her thoughts, I identify with her more as a person, and I appreciate her point of view. Added voice helps persuade me that the writer is thoughtful and reasonable, and that it’s worth listening to her point of view about the book.

After second example. Say: In the last paragraphs of the review, I learn that the writer really likes the story overall. Again, she tells us her feelings directly when she tells her one complaint. I see that it can be very persuasive for a writer to directly state thoughts and feelings in a review, so long as she supports them with explanations. It makes her voice sound honest. Because she shares...
her feelings and tells things she both likes and dislikes about the story, I trust the writer and find her opinions persuasive.

2. Rehearse

Practice Adding Thoughts and Feelings to the Voice of a Persuasive Book Review

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

One day, the Ugly Duckling looks up and spies something incredible. He sees several large birds. They have big wings and long necks. He longs to be one of them.

Practice Text

Ask students to imagine they are writing a review of “Different Isn’t Ugly.” Ask them to work in small groups to add voice to the practice text by adding thoughts and feelings. Encourage students to decide what they think of the Ugly Duckling’s longing to be like the other birds. Tell students that they can change the existing sentences. They can also add text so that readers will hear their voice. Students should write down their sentences and be prepared to read them to the class. They should be able to explain how they made their voice more persuasive by adding thoughts and feelings.

Share Practice Sentences

Bring students together and invite groups to read aloud their sentences and explain which words they used to add thoughts and feelings about the story event. Record students’ sentences and post some as models for students to use as they write their own persuasive reviews.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We just learned that adding your thoughts and feelings to a book review can help persuade your audience to share your opinions. Remember, a good persuasive book review communicates how you think and feel about a book. Sharing thoughts and feelings can make your voice sound honest and trustworthy if you support your opinions with good reasoning.

Ask students to identify a section of their book review in which they can strengthen the writer’s voice by adding thoughts and feelings. 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 read aloud sections of their book reviews in which they improved the writer’s voice by adding thoughts and feelings.

Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning and Intermediate**

Model how you can share your thoughts and feelings about a story in oral sentences. Invite students to tell you about a story they have enjoyed. Reinforce that writers share thoughts and feelings in reviews using their own voices. Supply the following sentence frames to help students discuss their thoughts and feelings:

- I liked ______.
- I did not like ______.

**Advanced**

Combine ELs with fluent English speakers during the small-group practice activity.

**All Levels**

If you have students whose first language is Spanish, share these English/Spanish cognates: persuasive/persuasivo(a); voice/la voz.