Lesson 11: Writing a Lead

Essential Question	Materials
What types of leads are most likely to hook a reader?	mentor text lead anchor chart

Mini Lesson

Read the lesson 11 mentor text to students or have them read it with partners.

"Today I want to really focus on the lead and introduction. Authors spend a lot of time writing their lead. Why is it important to write a good lead for your story?"

Reread the first paragraph of the mentor text. "How does this author begin their essay?" (a question with an interesting fact)

"Besides an interesting lead, what else does the author include in her introduction?" (a strong opinion statement)

"One thing that the author did NOT include was her entire list of reasons. The reasons are the body of the essay and you want to keep them a secret in the introduction. She just hints at them to keep her readers interested!"

Go over the anchor chart with students. (They can put the student printable version in their notebook for reference.) Model how you would write your lead and introduction. Write on the board or chart paper. Think out loud as you write. You can use your own topic or use my example.

Example:
As soon as I walk in the door I can smell delicious spices and hear the sizzling of meat being grilled. My stomach growls and my mouth waters. When I come to Chipotle, I can't wait to eat my lunch. When I walk into the school cafeteria, I never get this excited to eat my lunch. Clearly, some changes need to be made in our school cafeteria. Chipotle needs be served in the cafeteria.

Work Time

Students will write a few possible leads for the essay that they drafted. Once they have chosen an interesting lead, students should revise their introduction to include the strong opinion statement and remove their reasons.

Closing

Students will share their lead with their partner.

Intervention	Extension
Rather than asking for a list of possible leads, encourage these students to come up with two possible leads. Generally, the question is the easier lead.	Encourage students to write a question, a fact and a short story lead before choosing one to use in their essay.

Lesson 12: Revising your reasons

Essential Question
How can writers support their opinion?

Materials
mentor text

Mini Lesson
Read the lesson 12 mentor text to students or have them read it with partners.

"What is the author's opinion in this piece?"

"Why does the author think that? The author gave a couple reasons for her opinion." (They can be found in paragraphs three and four.)

You may want to list the reasons on the board or have students underline them in their mentor text.

"One thing I notice is that all of the author's reasons are different. She doesn't just have one reason that she keeps rewording." (Example of repetitive reasons: I should have a dog because I am responsible. I should have a dog because I always do my chores. I should have a dog because I do what I am told.)

"I also notice that all of her reasons are clear and constantly remind me of her opinion. Sometimes we get writing and start using reasons that sound good, but don't really support our opinion." (Example: Opinion- I need to have a dog. Reason- I once had a cat. Instead- I once had a cat and I took good care of him. I would take just as good care of a dog.)

Work Time
Students will go back to their draft and revise their reasons. They should first make certain that all of their reasons are different, rather than being repetitive. Then, students should make certain their reasons are clear and tied to their opinion statement.

Closing
Students will explain to their partner the revisions that they made to their reasons.

Intervention
Highlight any reasons that are repetitive. Ask guiding questions to help students to come up with additional or alternative reasons. Why do you feel that way? Why should you have that privilege? Why do you like that so much?

Extension
Encourage students to include 3-4 reasons.

Lesson 13: Consider your audience

Essential Question
How can writers support their opinion?

Materials
mentor text
audience anchor chart

Mini Lesson
Read the lesson 13 mentor text to students or have them read it with partners.

"What is the author's opinion in this piece? Who do you think the author's audience might be? The types of reasons that we use depend on the audience that we are writing to."

Fill out the anchor chart together.

Opinion	Adult	Child
Opinion: I need to start earning an allowance.	I can use the money to buy books. Earning an allowance will help me learn to be responsible with money.	I could buy video games. I could go out for ice cream.
Opinion: Our class needs to take a field trip to the zoo.	We can learn more about animals. The break will make us more refreshed and ready to work hard.	We won't have to do schoolwork. We can talk the entire time on the bus.

"Take a moment to think about your essay. Who is your audience? A parent? A teacher? A friend? Classmates? Turn and tell your partner who your audience is."

"Now think about the reasons that you used in your essay. Are the reasons you chose a good fit for your audience?"

Work Time
Students will revise any of their reasons that are not a good fit for their audience. They can cross a reason out and add another if necessary.

Closing
Tell your partner why it is important to consider your audience.

Intervention
Highlight any reasons that might not be a good fit for the student's audience.

Extension

Lesson 14: Consider Opposing Opinions

Essential Question	Materials
How can writers support their opinion?	mentor text opposing opinions anchor chart

Mini Lesson

Read the lesson 14 mentor text to students or have them read it with partners.

"What is the author's opinion in this piece? Who do you think the author's audience might be and why?"

Reread paragraph three.

"Do you notice anything different about this reason? The author mentioned the opposing, or opposite view. Then she argued why that view was wrong. That makes her reason even stronger!"

Complete the anchor chart together.

Opinion	Opposing Opinion	Reason
Our cafeteria needs to serve Chipotle for lunch.	Chipotle is a fast food and not healthy for kids.	Some people argue that Chipotle is just fast food and not healthy. However, Chipotle uses fresh ingredients to make their food healthier than other fast food restaurants.
Our family desperately needs a vacation to the beach.	Vacations are too expensive.	I can hear you saying, "A vacation is too expensive!" Well it doesn't have to be! We can bring our own food so that we don't have to eat out. Plus, playing at the beach is free!

Work Time

Students will edit a reason or add a reason that takes the opposing opinion into consideration.

Closing

Students will share with their partner how they revised a reason to consider the opposing opinion.

Intervention	Extension
Ask guiding questions to get students thinking about the opposing opinions. "Why wouldn't someone want to..."	

Lesson 15: Using Examples

Essential Question
How can writers support their opinion?

Materials
mentor text
reasons anchor chart from lesson 8

Mini Lesson
Read the lesson 15 mentor text to students or have them read it with partners. Choose one of the reason paragraphs to reread.

"I love how the author doesn't just tell us the reason and move on. They included examples to make the reason even stronger."

Complete the anchor chart together.

My Opinion: The school cafeteria needs to serve Chipotle for lunch.

Reason #1: Chipotle has healthy options that will give teachers and students energy.	Example #1: You can get grilled chicken, fresh vegetables and brown rice.
Reason #2: Our cafeteria needs more variety.	Example #2: The cafeteria currently serves pizza, grilled cheese and spaghetti every single week. Chipotle has lots of options. They have chicken and beef. They have tacos, quesadillas, burritos and bowls.
Reason #3: Chipotle will make lunch easier for parents.	Example #3: Since Chipotle is so delicious, more students will choose to eat school lunch. Parents will not have to worry about buying lunch items at the grocery store, packing lunches before school or delivering forgotten lunch boxes.

Work Time
Students will revise their essay to include at least one example for each reason.

Closing
Share with your partner one example that you added to your writing.

Intervention
Help students to rehearse their examples before putting them into their writing. It might also be helpful to put a star where the student should insert the example.

Extension
Encourage these students to include multiple examples whenever possible.

Lead & Introduction

Lead

Hook readers with something interesting.

story
fact
question
Sound
quote

Opinion

You need a strong and clear opinion statement.

We need...
Students must...
Everyone should...
We have to...

No Reasons

Save them for the body of your essay! If you give too much of your argument away in the introduction, they have no reason to keep reading.

Consider your **Audience**

Who are you writing to?
Who are you trying to convince?

Opinion	Audience: Adult	Audience: Friend
I need to start earning an allowance.		
Our class needs to take a fieldtrip to the zoo.		

Consider your **Audience**

Who are you writing to?
Who are you trying to convince?

Opinion	Audience: Adult	Audience: Friend
I need to start earning an allowance.	I can use the money to buy books. Earning an allowance will help me to learn to be responsible with money.	I could buy video games. I could go out for ice cream.
Our class needs to take a fieldtrip to the zoo.	We can learn more about animals. The break will make us more refreshed and ready to work hard.	We won't have to do schoolwork. We can talk the entire time on the bus.

OPPOSING OPINION

WHO WOULD DISAGREE WITH YOUR OPINION? WHY? HOW CAN YOU ARGUE THAT THEY ARE WRONG?

OPINION	OPPOSING OPINION	REASON
Our cafeteria needs to serve Chipotle for lunch.		
Our family desperately needs a vacation to the beach.		

OPPOSING OPINION

WHO WOULD DISAGREE WITH YOUR OPINION? WHY? HOW CAN YOU ARGUE THAT THEY ARE WRONG?

OPINION	OPPOSING OPINION	REASON
Our cafeteria needs to serve Chipotle for lunch.	Chipotle is a fast food and not healthy for kids.	Some people argue that Chipotle is just fast food and not healthy. However, Chipotle uses fresh ingredients to make their food healthier than other fast food restaurants.
Our family desperately needs a vacation to the beach.	Vacations are too expensive.	I can hear you saying, "A vacation is too expensive!" Well it doesn't have to be! We can bring our own food so that we don't have to eat out. Plus, playing at the beach is free!

Lead and Introduction

Lead	Opinion	No Reasons

CONSIDER YOUR AUDIENCE

Who are you writing to?
Who are you trying to convince?

OPINION	AUDIENCE: ADULT	AUDIENCE: FRIEND
I need to start earning an allowance.		
Our class needs to take a fieldtrip to the zoo.		

OPPOSING OPINION

Who would disagree with your opinion? Why? How can you argue that they are wrong?

Opinion	Opposing Opinion	Reason
Our cafeteria needs to serve Chipotle for lunch.		
Our family desperately needs a vacation to the beach.		

Everybody Needs to Recycle!

Day 11: Writing the Lead and Introduction

Did you know that more than half of the trash that ends up in the garbage can actually be recycled? Even more shocking, plastics like water bottles and food containers that *can* be recycled take up to 500 years to decompose or disintegrate if thrown in the garbage. Recycling items like paper, glass and plastic will convert these materials into reusable items. This will reduce pollution caused by waste and preserve our natural resources. So, how important is recycling? In my opinion, everybody should be recycling.

One reason I believe everyone should recycle is that it would drastically reduce the amount of waste in our world. If homes, businesses, and schools recycled, many items could be reused and made into new products instead of going into our landfills. Also, landfills contain all kinds of toxic materials from the liquids we throw away, to the gases our waste produces. After time, these toxins are absorbed into the ground and can contaminate our drinking water. However, recycling as much of these materials as possible will help reduce these toxins and waste.

Another reason that everyone should recycle is that it truly saves our environment. First, recycling just paper products will help save our forests and the amount of trees that are being cut down each year. For example, if people just started recycling their daily newspapers and junk mail alone, we would see a huge savings in the number of trees that are cut down. In fact, one environmental service company predicted that up to 150,000 trees could be saved, if just 100,000 people asked to be on the "Do Not Mail List" to stop receiving junk mail. This shows that doing something as easy as recycling can make a huge impact on our earth.

Finally, everyone should recycle because one man's trash is another man's treasure. Basically, those things you consider garbage, someone might want or someone may be able to use. There are some easy ways to get rid of those items you don't want without throwing them in the trash to go straight to a landfill. For instance, many organizations can take your donated clothes or toys to families in need. Also, you can have a garage sale and gain money from those items you no longer want. Last, there are many states in the U.S. that will pay you to recycle aluminum cans or glass containers. Most states that have this system in place will pay their residents 5 cents per can or bottle that is being recycled.

Surely, you can see the importance of recycling. If everyone recycles, not only will it reduce the waste in our world, as well as save our environment, but it can also be truly rewarding in other ways too. I hope you'll join me in recycling from here on out.

You Need to Read *The One and Only Ivan*

Day 12: Revising Your Reasons

Have you ever visited your local library in search of a really good book that you can't put down? You walk through aisle after aisle and read the back of so many books, all to come up with nothing to check out in the end. If you have this problem too, I have the book for you! It's the Newberry Award winning book, *The One and Only Ivan*!

The One and Only Ivan was inspired by the true story of a gorilla taken captive and living in a shopping mall just off the interstate. The gorilla's name is Ivan, and the entire story is told from his point of view. Once I started reading this book, I couldn't stop. Here are a couple of reasons I believe you should read *The One and Only Ivan*.

First, if you love animals, you will really enjoy this story. You're not only introduced to a sweet and kind gorilla, but you also get to meet his circle of friends who love and support him. You'll meet characters like the innocently cute elephant, Ruby. You will adore Ruby and her childlike behavior as you watch her friendship unfold with Ivan. There's also a feisty stray dog, Bob, who will have you giggling but also loving him too. Then there's Stella. She's the wisest of the animals that call the mall home, and she is an extraordinary companion for Ivan. These are just some of the animal characters that make the story fascinating. However, there are other human characters you will also find very interesting as well.

Another reason you should read *The One and Only Ivan*, is it will open your eyes to some real world issues. The inspiration for this book came from the true story of a real gorilla named Ivan. Ivan was taken from his natural habitat and brought to the U.S. He lived with a human companion until he became too wild to keep in his home. That's when he was brought to the mall, to be observed by humans that were shopping or walking by. The author in this story gives Ivan and other animals held captive a voice. The story brings to life how some animals held captive are treated and also shines a light for us to see into their world.

The One and Only Ivan will not only soften your heart, but it will also have you laughing, crying and recommending the book to others. You should read the book, *The One and Only Ivan*.

Students Should Be Allowed to Use Cell Phones

Day 13: Consider Your Audience

Have you banned cell phone usage at your school? Do you feel that cell phones can be too much of a disturbance on campus or in the classroom? Many principals have forbidden cell phone usage in their schools as well. They believe that cellphones will be too much of a distraction for students. However, I feel strongly that cell phones should be allowed on school property and can be used to benefit students and teachers.

First, many teachers would love to use technology in the classroom each day, but most schools do not have the money to provide a computer for each student. This can make researching projects and writing papers time consuming because students will need to share computers. If students were allowed to use their cell phones for these types of projects, it would free up more time for learning. This means there would be even more learning opportunities for the students in your school.

Next, there are apps that students can download to be used in the classroom. For example, Kahoot! is an app that teachers can use to turn a review for a test into a game show. This helps students to be more interested in test practice. There are hundreds of apps that can be used in the classroom to make learning more fun for students. If students were permitted to use their cell phones for these fun learning apps, the school would not need to pay for each student to have a learning device.

Last, I understand that some principals and administrators fear that students may use their cell phones for the wrong reasons. There are many other things in schools students are allowed to do, but there are rules that go with them. If students knew that using their cell phones properly in class meant they were allowed to have them, I believe they would follow the rules put in place. It's important that students understand the expectations of having their cell phones in class and that there will be strict consequences when the rules are not followed. This would help the principals to worry less about students misusing their phones.

In conclusion, I think you will see great benefits if you allow your students to use cell phones at school and in the classroom. It is time to change your school rules regarding cell phones!

Should People Be Allowed to Keep Exotic Pets?

Day 14: Consider Opposing Opinions

Millions of tigers, bears, monkeys, and other wild animals are kept privately in the homes of humans in the United States. In fact, between 5,000 and 7,000 tigers are kept as pets nationwide. While as few as 3,200 are left in the wild. These types of pets mentioned above are called exotic pets. Exotic pets can be defined as rare or unusual animals that are part of a wild species and kept as a pet by a human. In many states it is against the law to own exotic pets, but in other states it is allowed if you have a permit. Some people believe that as long as the animals are caged properly and have no way of getting loose, it should be okay to own an exotic pet. However, I believe exotic pets should not be allowed.

One of the reasons I think people should not be allowed to own an exotic pet is that it's cruel to the animal in captivity. These animals are called wild animals for a reason, and they belong in the wild. Many of the animals are purchased as babies, and are taken from their mothers at a very young age. These animals are removed from their natural habitats and placed in habitats or homes that can be difficult for them to survive in. Often times, the animals that are purchased as babies get so big their owners are no longer able to care for them or keep them as pets any longer. In these cases, some exotic pet owners will release them back into the wild. However these animals have never learned to hunt or survive in the wild on their own, and many don't survive.

Some exotic pet owners say that owning a dog can be just as risky as owning an exotic pet. This is because both of these animals can bite or attack unexpectedly. However, dogs have been domesticated, or trained to be kept as pets for almost 10,000 years. Thus, making dogs more trustworthy and tame to keep as a pet in your home. Exotic pets are being taken directly from the wild into the homes of humans. This is not only life threatening to the pet living outside of its natural habitat, but it is also dangerous for the owner of the wild animal as well. Some exotic pet owners have been unexpectedly attacked by their pets resulting in major injuries and sometimes even death. For example, there are many documented stories of chimpanzees, bears, and tigers attacking their owners when they least expected it.

So when thinking about the next pet you would like to have living in your home as a companion, think about animals like a dog, hamster, gold fish or a cat. Deciding against having an exotic animal as a pet may help save the life of a wild animal and possibly your life as well.

Don't Text and Drive!

Day 15: Support Your Reasons with Examples

How often are you sitting in your car and you spot other drivers stopped next to you, texting away on their cell phone? Or even worse, the driver is *driving* down the road, passing other cars, with their phone in their hand reading or texting messages? Each year, over 330,000 accidents caused by texting while driving lead to severe injuries. If this fact alone doesn't make you realize that people should not text and drive, than please continue reading.

First, people should not text and drive because it's not only dangerous for the driver, but you are putting others at risk as well. Making the choice to text and drive does not just effect the driver. There are thousands of other people on the road as well. For example, there are pedestrians walking along the side of the road, bicyclist riding *on* the road, and other drivers driving on the street too. When a driver is making the choice to text and drive, they can easily become distracted, taking their eyes off the road for just a few seconds. In these few seconds the driver can seriously injure any of the innocent people mentioned above, as well as themselves. This is why making the choice to text and drive can be a selfish one.

Another reason that people should not text and drive is there are other options available if you *need* to text or talk to someone immediately. Sure, there are emergencies where you need to urgently get ahold of somebody. In cases like these, you could pull over to the side of the road and use your cell phone in a safe manner. In addition, there are hands free kits and many cars even have talk to text or other calling features. These features allow you to talk while driving but the driver continues to keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.

Finally, people should not text and drive because in most states it is now illegal. Meaning, if people are texting and driving, they are breaking the law. These cell phone laws are different in each state. However, it is illegal in 48 states to text and drive. Some states allow drivers to talk on cell phones while driving, but do not allow them to text. While some states ban both talking on a cell phone and texting when driving.

No matter what state you live in, it is clear that texting when driving is a bad mix and can be a devastating choice as well. Have a conversation with your friends and family about the dangers of texting while driving. It could save someone's life.