10 Things You Need to Know about the Maasai.
Today I am going to teach you about **Informational Writing**

- Looks closely at a topic that is significant to You or the Class.
- Conveys ideas and information clearly according to audience and purpose. **Who are you writing for and why?**
- Introduces topic and groups related ideas together and presented in order of importance (include illustrations to help your reader understand)
- Develops the topic with **facts, definitions, details, and comparisons**
- May include a **mini-story** that supports the topic (believable)
- Provides a concluding statement or section. **You need an ending!**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What We Know</th>
<th>We Want To Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Work independently to complete your chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I Know</th>
<th>What I WANT to Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Maasai Tribe lives in Kenya.</td>
<td>• Do the Maasai only live in Kenya?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cow is very important to them.</td>
<td>• What is the Maasai village really like?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What language do they speak?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Why are the cows important to them?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What is school like for the Maasai children?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• How do the Maasai people dress?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• How do the Maasai celebrate?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What do the Maasai usually eat?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Why do the Maasai move around a lot?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Why are the Maasai kindhearted people?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share writing
✓ Tell what their partner wrote (TAG)
✓ Tell what skill they were working on
✓ Give a compliment when they hear a target skill in their partner’s writing

Compliments
Some Positive Things to Do or Say
• Your reader will like the way you have...
• Your reader can picture...
• This piece is easy for me to read.
• How did you learn that?
• I do the same thing...
• Tell me again what happened. Did you put it down that way?
• What else do you want your reader to know?
• How did you select the topic?
Today I am going to teach you about doing research to answer your questions.

- Research helps to build knowledge about a topic.
- Recall information from experiences
- Gather information from books, articles and internet
- Take brief notes on sources
- Sort evidence into categories.
We have our questions. Now we have to organize our research!

Ten Things about Opal’s Mother

1. “Your mama was funny. She could make just about anybody laugh.”
2. “She had red hair and freckles.”
3. “She liked to plant thing. She had a talent for it. She could stick a tire in the ground and grow a car.”
4. “She could run fast. If you were racing her, you couldn’t ever let her get a head start, because she would beat you for sure.”
5. “She couldn’t cook. She burned everything, including water. She had a hard time opening a can of beans. She couldn’t make head nor tail of a piece of meat.”
6. “...your mama loved a story. She would sit and listen to stories all day long. She loved to be told a story. She especially liked funny ones, stories that made her laugh.”
7. “She knew all the constellations, every planet in the nighttime sky. Every last one of them. She could name them. And point them out. And she never got tired of looking up at them.”
8. “...she hated being a preacher’s wife. She said she just couldn’t stand having the ladies at church judge what she was wearing and what she was cooking and how she was singing. She said it made her feel like a bug under a microscope.”
9. “She drank. She drank beer. And whiskey. And wine. Sometimes, she couldn’t stop drinking. And that made me and you mama fight quite a bit.”
10. “...your mama loved you. She loved you very much.”

From Chapter Four of Because of Winn-Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo

Ten Things about Winn-Dixie

1. “Number one was that he had a pathological fear of thunderstorms.”
2. “Number two was he liked to smile, using all his teeth.”
3. “Number three was he could run fast.”
4. “Number four was that he snored.”
5. “Number five was that he could catch a mice without squishing them to death.”
6. “Number six was he liked to meet people.”
7. “Number seven was he liked to eat peanut butter.”
8. “Number eight was he couldn’t stand to be left alone.”
9. “Number nine was he liked to sit on couches and sleep in beds.”
10. “Number ten was he didn’t mind going to church.”

From Chapter Twenty-Four of Because of Winn-Dixie, by Kate DiCamillo
“Ten Things You Need to Know about the Maasai”

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
Revision: The Overlooked Step in the Writing Process

- Revision is a way of:
  - seeing and re-seeing words
  - training our eyes and ears to what good writing looks and sounds like
  - learning and practicing strategies that will make a difference in writing

- Ultimately, the point of learning about revision is to learn how to help our writing match more accurately what’s in our hearts.
“Ten Things You Need to Know about the Maasai”

1. Places Where the Maasai Live
2. Description of a Maasai Village
3. The Maasai Language
4. The Importance of Cows
5. Maasai Schools
6. The Maasai Clothing
7. Maasai Celebrations
8. The Maasai show kindness.
9. Why the Maasai Move
10. The Maasai Diet

Do they only live in Kenya? or Places Where the Maasai Live

These are the headings I have chosen.
Write your headings on index cards

5 Maasai Schools
4 The Importance of Cows
3 The Maasai Language
2 Description of a Maasai Village
1 Places where the Maasai live

10 The Maasai Diet
9 Why the Maasai Move
8 The Maasai show kindness.
7 Maasai Celebrations
6 The Maasai Clothing
Today I am going to teach you about note taking and highlighting.

• Read through the selection (paragraph) first.
• Reread and begin highlighting.
• Be selective (do not highlight whole sentences).
• Choose key ideas from the sentences.
• Note important ideas with numbers, *s, etc.
• Add notes in the margins to indicate topics and for your own comments or write important notes on index cards.
The Maasai Show Kindness

They think to help someone feel better you should give them something that makes you feel better. Like something that is important to you.

A Note from Kimeli Naiyomah

I am the Kimeli in this story. I grew up in a small village in Kenya.

When I was a little boy my mama said I was too gentle to be a fierce Maasai warrior. I fed little nestlings in the bush and rescued drowning ants from water puddles.

I loved taking care of the cows that belonged to the elders. I felt a close bond with them. A Maasai boy is like one of the calves in the herd. He drinks milk from the cows and feels protected by the bull. My mama was too poor to own a cow. I dreamt of having one someday for my mama and me. It was my biggest dream.

As a young boy, I spent much of my time with the grandpas and grandmas of my tribe. It was through them that I learned my tender warrior heart was not a bad thing. They taught me that the Maasai valued more than strength and boldness. Our ancestors also valued compassion and kindness toward anyone in need: the orphan, the widow, the stranger. To heal the pain in someone’s heart, they told me, you give them something that is close to your own heart.

When I was older, I won a scholarship to study in the United States. Many American moms and dads welcomed me to their homes as they would their own child. Like the Maasai elders in my village, these people showed me kindness by taking me in and helping me get an education. America became my second home.

I was in New York City on September 11, 2001. What happened that day was devastating. Many people were left without their mothers and fathers, brothers, and sisters. Like countless others, I watched brave firefighters and police officers risk their own lives to save people. My warrior heart could not sit still in me. I wanted to do something to help.

My childhood heart told me what to do: Offer a sacrifice in the way of my people. To heal a sorrowing heart, give something that is dear to your own. I have saved enough to fulfill my dream and buy a cow. I decided that the cow, a symbol of life to our people, would be my offering to the grieving Americans. But some pains are too big for one chest to carry. I would ask the elders in my village to bless the cow, to make it special so the gift might take away some of the sadness from American hearts.
As you read through *The Note*, look for details that would go with your headings:

1. Places where the Maasai live
2. Description of a Maasai Village
3. The Maasai Language
4. The Importance of Cows
5. Maasai Schools
6. The Maasai Clothing
7. Maasai Celebrations
8. The Maasai show kindness.
9. Why the Maasai Move
10. The Maasai Diet
For the Sake of Time...  

Carousel Brainstorming

Process

• Pick topics and post on chart paper around the room.

• Assign student teams to each topic.

• Teams take one minute to brainstorm everything they know about the topic. They use a “team” colored marker.

• Teams move to the next topic and brainstorm with their team marker.

• Teams stop when they return to their original topic, read what has been entered after their entry, then “carousel” around the other topics reading the new information.
Your table has been assigned an article.

- Divide the article into 1 or 2 paragraphs per person and write the important details on a large sticky (paraphrase please)
- Post your sticky on the chart paper with the copy of your article.

- Take the note cards and travel around the room gathering information for each category. (enough to write a paragraph)
Today I am teach you how to review your notes and organize in order of importance.

Which heading did you find the most information about?

Which heading did you find the most interesting?

1. Places where the Maasai live
   They live in Tanzania too

2. Description of a Maasai Village

3. The Maasai Language

4. The Importance of Cows

5. Maasai Schools

6. The Maasai Clothing
   Women wear necklaces. Men wear a lot of red.

7. Maasai Celebrations

8. The Maasai show kindness.

9. Why the Maasai Move

10. The Maasai Diet
2. Will our headings entice the reader?

Start off with a Bang!
A good lead can:
- get your attention
- give you the shivers!
- make you wonder what else will happen
- make you want to keep reading!

1. Places where the Maasai live
   - They live in Tanzania too

2. Description of a Maasai Village

3. The Maasai Language

4. The Importance of Cows

5. Maasai Schools

6. The Maasai Clothing
   - Women wear necklaces.
   - Men wear a lot of red.

7. Maasai Celebrations

8. The Maasai show kindness.

9. Why the Maasai Move

10. The Maasai Diet
Does this order make sense?
Which headings sound like they would be fun to read?

1. Places where the Maasai live
   They live in Tanzania too

2. The Maasai Neighborhood

3. Hello! Hola! Súpa!

4. All about the Moo!!!

5. Kijabi School-Not for Everyone

6. Maasai Fashion: Read all about it
   Women wear necklaces. Men wear a lot of red.

7. Party Time at the Village

8. Eating With The Maasai.

9. On the Move with the Maasai

10. A Kindhearted People
Today I am going to teach you how to put your ideas into meaningful paragraphs. We are going to compose our sentences with details.

- Details in our writing help us to describe.
- When describing, we use attributes.
- The attributes are what we understand through our 5 senses.
- You either observe attributes directly, remember them from an experience, or imagine them.
- Detail attributes give our writing specific word choice.
- It is applicable to all other genres of writing, too.
How do the Maasai women dress?

- Wear all colors of clothes
- Beading has patterns
- Capes
- Big necklaces
- Beads made from wood & bone
- Started using glass beads
The Maasai women wear colorful clothes. They wear bright capes with beads. They wear bright necklaces with beads. The capes and necklaces have patterns made with the beads. The beads are made from wood. The beads are also made from bones. The beads are also made from glass. The necklaces are big. They wear many necklaces overlapping each other. They may start just under their chin. The necklaces may stop on their shoulders. The necklace resting on the shoulder may look like a collar. It may be a few inches wide.

How do the Maasai women dress?

• Wear all colors of clothes
• Beading has patterns
• Capes
• Big necklaces
• Beads made from wood & bone
• Started using glass beads
Today I am going to teach you about how to combine short choppy sentences.

- If you often use short/repetitive sentences in your writing it will sound very choppy.
- To make it more interesting combine short sentences into longer sentences.
- Write interesting sentences using “magic” words, or conjunctions.
- “Magic” words help the writer to compose sentences that have different lengths, patterns, and interest.
- Use “magic” words as frequently as possible.
The Maasai women wear colorful clothes. They wear bright capes with beads. They wear bright necklaces with beads. The capes and necklaces have patterns made with the beads. The beads are made from wood. The beads are made from bones. The beads are also made from glass. The necklaces are big. They wear many necklaces overlapping each other. They may start just under their chin. The necklaces may stop on their shoulders. The necklace resting on the shoulder may look like a collar. It may be a few inches wide.
Let’s try it!

The beads are made from wood.
The beads are made from bones.
The beads are also made from glass.

The beads used are made from wood, bones, and glass.
Although the necklaces look as if there is one, each necklace overlaps the other. The jewelry starts just under the Maasai woman’s chin, while some of the necklaces may rest on her shoulders and look like a three-inch wide collar.
The Maasai women wear colorful clothes. They wear bright capes and many necklaces with complicated bead work. The beads used are made from wood, bones, and glass! Although the necklaces look as if there is one, each necklace overlaps the other. The jewelry starts just under the Maasai woman’s chin, while some of the necklaces may rest on her shoulders and look like a three-inch wide collar.
Today I am going to teach you about the author’s note.

Carmen Agra Deedy

Has been writing and traveling around the world telling stories for more than twenty years. Her books, including AGATHA’S FEATHERBED, THE LIBRARY DRAGON, THE YELLOW STAR, and MARTINA THE BEAUTIUL COCKROACH have received numerous awards and honors. Carmen has performed in many prestigious venues, but children are her favorite audience. Born in Havana, Cuba, she came to the United States as a refugee and like most immigrants sees the world from multiple perspectives.
A note about the author:
• Include your full name
• Where were you born?
• When did you start writing?
• What do you like to write about?
• What are some of the titles of what you have written?
• Who have you shared your writing with? Your favorite audience
• How did you feel about doing research on the Maasai?
• End your note with the most important thing, something you will always remember, or something learned

Simple Endings

❖ The most important thing:
The most important thing about having a hamster is that it will make the whole class behave better.

❖ The thing I remember most:
The thing I will never forget is that it is so easy to take care of a hamster, anyone can do it!

❖ Something I learned:
Having a hamster is easier and more exciting than taking care of a boring goldfish!
Include your writing experiences in the author’s note to share another aspect of yourself with the reader…
• Include feelings about the research project on the Maasai
• Read your note to a partner. Have the partner listen for:
  • Evidence of your writing experiences
  • Use of an ending technique
  • A sentence with your feelings after working the Maasai research project.
Let’s Talk

 Editing is an important part of the writing process which is often confused.

 It is important to distinguish between revising and editing.

 Editing refers to the changes and corrections a writer makes so that his/her work conforms to conventions.
Conventions

Have I checked my...

- Punctuation?
- Spelling?
- Capital letters?
- Different kinds of sentences?

Editor’s Checklist

✓ Capitalization Rules!
✓ Dialogue Rules!
✓ Check homophones
  there  their  they're
  place  ownership  they are
✓ Watch apostrophes
  They show possession or make contractions
✓ Check commas
  Add or delete? Rules?
✓ Check sentences
  Run-on? Fragment? Short and boring?
✓ Check Pronouns
  he  him  his
  subject  object  possessive