

Troubleshooting Tips for Writing Informational Paragraphs Using POW

1. Students Struggle to Pick a Main Idea

- Prompt with simple, relatable topics (pets, favorite foods, hobbies).
- Use sentence starters like “I want to write about ____” or “My favorite ____ is ____ because...”
- Model several examples aloud to show how to choose a clear, focused idea.

2. Students Have Trouble Organizing Details

- Use the POW graphic organizer visually and guide them to fill each box step-by-step.
- Pair students to discuss details aloud before writing to build confidence.

3. Students Write Very Short or Vague Sentences

- Introduce “Say More” question prompts to deepen ideas (Why? How? Examples?).
- Model expanding sentences by adding reasons or examples.
- Provide sentence starters for elaboration, e.g., “This is because...,” “For example...,” “Also...”

4. Students Have Difficulty Revising and Adding Details

- Use guided questions during revision: “Can you tell me more about this?” or “What else should your reader know?”
- Offer one-on-one support or small group mini-lessons on elaboration.

5. Students Get Overwhelmed by the Writing Process

- Set clear time limits for each step to keep focus.
- Celebrate small successes like completing the organizer or writing the first sentence.

6. Students Resist Peer Review or Give Unhelpful Feedback

- Model kind, specific feedback using examples.
- Provide sentence frames for giving feedback, e.g., “I liked how you...,” “You could add more about...”
- Reinforce the idea that peer review helps everyone become better writers.

7. Struggling Writers Need More Support

- Allow use of drawing or bullet points to organize ideas before writing.

- Provide additional sentence starters or word banks.
- Pair with a peer buddy or offer extra teacher check-ins during writing time.

These tips can help ensure smooth implementation and support all learners as they develop their informational writing skills using POW!