

Session 4: LO: Features of a biography- writing an engaging introduction.

Punctuation and grammar warm up:

First, second or third person?

- a. He has eaten all his dinner. _____
- b. I travelled to London on August 16th. _____
- c. You must tidy your room. _____
- d. The cat is injured, and it must be taken to the vet. _____

What is the structure of a biography? How do we box it up?

Introduction: Attention grabbing opening that summarises the main events of the person's life and makes the reader keen to read on and find out more.

Main body of text: Key events are written in chronological order- so start with birth, childhood, teenage years and so on...

Conclusion: finish with what they are doing now or can be most remembered for.

Images, pictures, photographs, and captions help engage the reader

Your introduction is important as it needs to catch the reader's attention.

Success criteria for writing an effective introduction:

Who is the person? – say their name (real name also if their birth name is different)

What are they are famous for? Say briefly why they are well known.

When did it happen? Say when – date.

Where did it happen? You may wish to say where the event or achievement happened.

Why are they famous today?

Talk directly to the reader. Read on...

We can write a biography introduction about anyone who we know well. Even a character from a book or nursery rhyme:

Incy Wincy spider went up the water spout,
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain,
So, Incy Wincy spider went up the water spout again.

Look how I will plan my introduction using the success criteria:

Success criteria for introduction	Key information
Who is the person? – say their name (real name also if their birth name is different)	Incy Wincy Spider
What are they are famous for? Say briefly why they are well known.	Climbing up the water spout -twice!
When did it happen? Say when – date.	Summer 1902
Where did it happen? You may wish to say where the event or achievement happened.	Garden shed
Why are they famous today?	His perseverance has taught others not to give up on their dreams. A rhyme was written about him.

Now I will put my planning into sentences- this would be the introduction to a biography about Incy Wincy so I only want to introduce him, not give too much away.

Incy Wincy spider was the first Irish spider to succeed in climbing the garden shed's water-spout in the Summer of 1902. He climbed it not once, but twice! His perseverance has inspired many other creatures to follow their dreams even when faced with a challenge. Read on to find out about Incy Wincy's remarkable life:

Choose a character from the table below and write an introduction to their biography using the success criteria above as a guide.

Characters:
Humpty Dumpty The mouse from Hickory Dickory Dock Mary from Mary had a little lamb Old MacDonald Peter Piper The Grand Old Duke of York
You may choose another if you have a character you would rather do. It could be the character from your favourite book- i.e. Horrid Henry

Planning sheet- or plan in your own way- pictures, spider diagram and so on.

Success criteria for introduction	Key information
Who is the person? – say their name (real name also if their birth name is different)	
What are they famous for? Say briefly why they are well known.	
When did it happen? Say when – date.	
Where did it happen? You may wish to say where the event or achievement happened.	
Why are they famous today?	

Write in your remote learning books or type on the computer. Send us your writing- we cannot wait to see it!

To think about:

Why is the introduction of a biography important?

How do you feel about the introduction you wrote?

Does it include the features of an effective introduction which engages the reader?

