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Refer to pages 6 and 7 to introduce or review the writing trait.

DAY 1

Read the rule aloud. Ask: *Which topic would you find more interesting: panda bears, or a new baby panda at the zoo?* Say: *Most readers—and writers—find a specific topic more interesting than one that is too broad.*

- **Activity A:** Read the paragraph aloud. Then ask: *Which paragraph is more interesting? (“A Wild Ride”)* Why? (more specific; has interesting details about a particular coaster)

Say: *One way to make your topic more specific is to use a narrowing triangle.* Draw a large inverted triangle on the board and write the following inside, in a column: **snacks, salty snacks, pretzels, Klein’s Pretzel Twists.** Point out that you narrowed the topic by getting more and more specific.

Call students’ attention to the triangle next to the first paragraph and discuss what it shows. (how the writer narrowed the topic down to “coasters”) Then guide students in filling in the triangle next to the second paragraph to show how the topic was narrowed down even further.

- **Activity B (Convention):** Say: *When choosing your ideas, you want to be clear and specific. One way to do this is to use proper nouns.* Review that proper nouns are specific people, places, and things and are always capitalized. Ask: *Which paragraph used proper nouns to be more specific? (“A Wild Ride”)* Have students complete the activity.

DAY 2

Read the rule aloud. Say: *When you choose a topic, you need to think about who your readers, or audience, will be. Ask yourself what they are interested in or what they might need to know.* Then guide students through the activity.

- **Convention:** Read the paragraph aloud. Remind students that the names of days and months are proper nouns, as are the names of organizations, businesses, and products.
- Make sure students understand who the intended audience is. (Outdoor Adventurers Club) Discuss what kind of people are probably in this club. (very active people who like to do things outside) Then have students complete the activity.

Name: _____ **Week 1 • Day 1**

Ideas The best writing begins with a good topic. Make your topic as specific as possible.

A. Read these informational paragraphs. Both writers started with a similar topic, but the second writer narrowed it down to be more specific. Fill in the narrowing triangle for the second paragraph to show how the topic was narrowed down.

Roller Coasters

Roller coasters are exciting rides. Every amusement park has at least one roller coaster, and every roller coaster has cars running on tracks. The tracks rise to great heights, and the cars climb slowly. After the climb, the cars speed down the steep dips, causing riders to scream.

A Wild Ride

Wild Goose Park is located five miles outside of Williamsville. The first roller coaster in the state was built in this old park over 100 years ago. Known as the Wild Goose Chase, it was designed by Ivy O'Brien. It's still there! Although the cars on the tracks are not the original ones, they are painted to look like the geese that swim in the lake at the center of the park. A ride on the Wild Goose Chase coaster is a must for any visitor to this historic park.

B. Underline all of the proper nouns in “A Wild Ride.” Circle their capital letters.

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Name: _____ **Week 1 • Day 2**

Ideas Be sure your topic is appropriate for your audience.

Read this paragraph. It was written for the newsletter of the Outdoor Adventurers Club. Use proofreading marks to capitalize the proper nouns. Then answer the questions.


My Favorite Weekend Activity

If you're looking for something fun to do next weekend, learn to play zorn's outer space battle. It's a cool new computer game by a company called galaxy games. Not only do you get to fly a spaceship, but you also create alien monsters. Just be sure to read the directions! I learned that lesson the hard way. I used to think that reading the directions was a waste of time. Then, last february, I spent hours trying to figure out a game called planet of the cowboys. If I had just read the directions, I would have saved myself hours of frustration. So, fellow members of the outdoor adventurers club, run out and buy zorn's outer space battle. But don't forget to read the directions!

1. What is the topic of the paragraph? playing video games
2. What did the writer forget about her audience? They are probably most interested in outdoor activities.
3. If you were writing for the Outdoor Adventurers Club newsletter, what kinds of topics do you think the audience would be interested in? List three specific topics that you might write about. **Sample Answers:**
 Topic 1: the time I hiked the Rocky Ridge Trail
 Topic 2: entering the fishing competition at El Estero Lake
 Topic 3: where to watch the meteor shower next month

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Name: _____ **Week 1 • Day 3**

 **Ideas** Choose ideas that will achieve your purpose.

A. This essay was meant to persuade students to participate in team sports. Read the essay. Then:

- Underline the negative ideas that the writer expresses that do not support her purpose.
- Use proofreading marks to capitalize the proper nouns.

Join a Team!

Playing on a sports team can be fun and educational. One team sport that some students enjoy is baseball. The barkeyville blast baseball team practices every thursday afternoon. Sometimes players don't feel like practicing, especially when the weather is not great, but they have to practice anyway. The long practices can make it hard to get homework done, too. Playing on a soccer team also takes a lot of time, and coach allen yells at players. If you don't make the perfect play every time, he'll make you feel really bad.

Our community also has an ice hockey team for kids. The team is coached by mr. bordasian. He is much nicer than the baseball coach, but falling down on the hard ice can really hurt. Interested students should call ms. graf at the barkeyville department of recreation for more information about joining a team.

B. What ideas could the writer of the essay have included to better achieve her purpose? List four positive things about team sports that she could have written about. **Sample Answers:**

- It's a great way to meet other kids in the community.
- You get to go out for pizza after every game.
- It's a good way to get exercise.
- It will make you a better player if you want to make the team in high school.

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DAY 3


Read the rule aloud. Say: *Good writers think about their **purpose** for writing, or what ideas they want to communicate to their readers. If you don't stay focused on your purpose, your reader may not get the point you're trying to make.* Guide students through the activities.

- Activity A:** Read aloud the essay. Ask: *What was the purpose of this essay supposed to be?* (to convince students to join a sports team) *Does the writer do this? Would this essay persuade you to join a sports team in her town?* (no) *Why not?* (She tells mostly the negative things about team sports.) Have students underline the specific ideas that do not suit the purpose.

Convention: Have students capitalize the proper nouns on their own. Review the answers as a class.

- Activity B:** Ask: *What should the writer have focused on to persuade you?* (the good things about team sports) Brainstorm details that the writer could have included. Have students complete the activity.

Name: _____ **Week 1 • Day 4**

 **Ideas** Be sure your topic and ideas suit your purpose and audience.

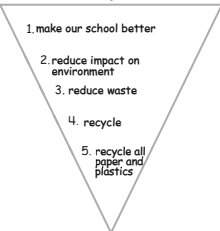
A. Imagine that you have been asked to write an editorial for your school newspaper. First, think about your audience by answering the questions.

Sample Answers:

- Who reads the school newspaper? students, teachers, parents, other people who work at the school
- What are some topics that your audience cares about? what is happening in the school, problems in the school, what individual students and teachers are doing, how to make the school better

B. Choose a topic from your list above. Use the triangle to narrow it down as much as possible. Then jot down some ideas to express your opinion about the topic. List reasons and examples that would persuade your audience to agree with you.

Sample Answers:

<p>Topic</p>  <p>1. make our school better</p> <p>2. reduce impact on environment</p> <p>3. reduce waste</p> <p>4. recycle</p> <p>5. recycle all paper and plastics</p>	<p>Opinion: <u>One way to make our school better is to recycle all paper and plastics.</u></p> <p>Reasons and Examples: <u>We throw away a lot of paper every day. We could help the school earn money. We could help save the environment.</u></p>
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DAY 4

Read the rule aloud. Then guide students through the activities.

- Activity A:** Say: *An editorial is a type of writing in which you express your opinion on a topic and try to convince your audience to agree with you. Editorials often appear in newspapers or magazines.* Ask: *Who reads a school newspaper?* (students, teachers, parents) Then brainstorm topics that those people would care about. List students' ideas on the board.
- Activity B:** Have students work independently to choose a topic and narrow it down. Guide them in listing reasons and examples to support their argument, reminding them to make sure their ideas and details match their purpose.

DAY 5 Writing Prompt 

- Write an editorial for the school newspaper on the topic you chose on Day 4. Keep your audience and purpose in mind as you write.
- Be sure to capitalize all proper nouns.

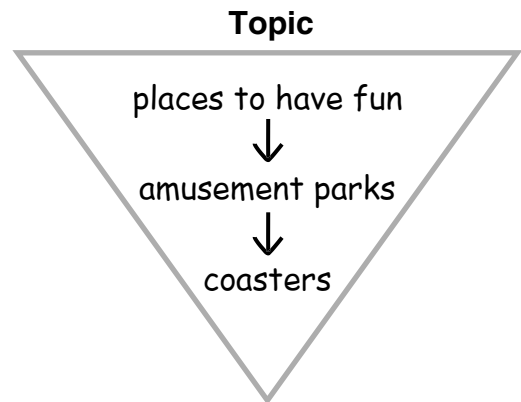


The best writing begins with a good topic. Make your topic as specific as possible.

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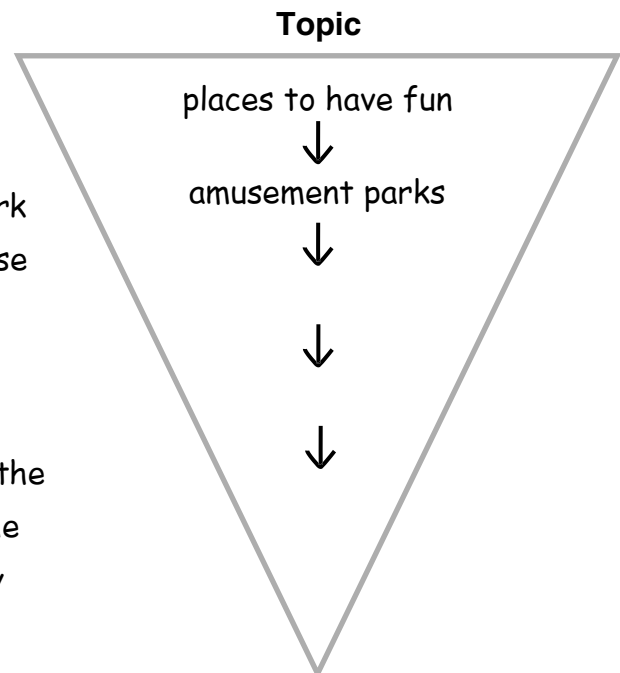
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- B. Underline all of the proper nouns in "A Wild Ride." Circle their capital letters.



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1. What is the topic of the paragraph? _____

2. What did the writer forget about her audience? _____

3. If you were writing for the Outdoor Adventurers Club newsletter, what kinds of topics do you think the audience would be interested in? List three specific topics that you might write about.

Topic 1: _____

Topic 2: _____

Topic 3: _____



Choose ideas that will achieve your purpose.

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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



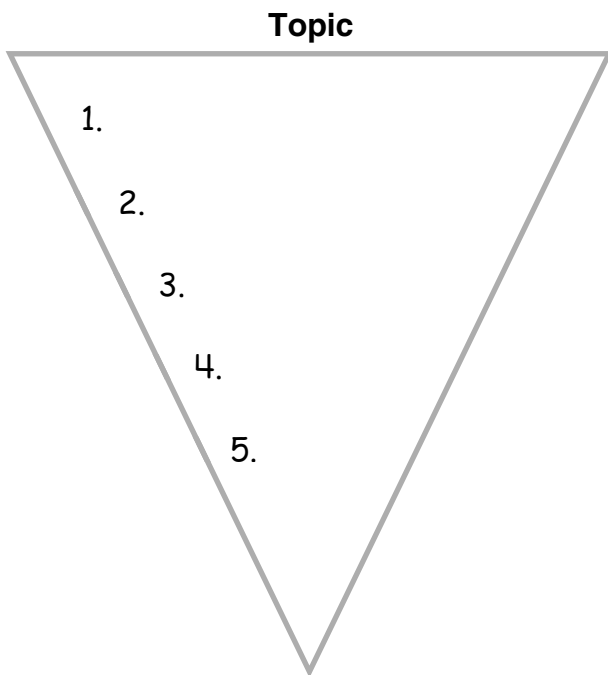
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1. Who reads the school newspaper? _____

2. What are some topics that your audience cares about? _____

B. Choose a topic from your list above. Use the triangle to narrow it down as much as possible. Then jot down some ideas to express your opinion about the topic. List reasons and examples that would persuade your audience to agree with you.



Opinion: _____

Reasons and Examples: _____

