

Lesson Plan

The Publishing Process

Book: *Alex Morgan: Soccer Star*

Series: Biggest Names in Sports

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students explore the publishing process by working in small groups to write, edit, and illustrate a work of short fiction.

Supplies

- *Alex Morgan: Soccer Star* book
- Editor Checklist (attached)
- Printer
- Pocket folders

Before the Activity

Have students read *Alex Morgan: Soccer Star*. Divide students into groups of three. Print a copy of the Editor Checklist for each group.

Activity

In addition to being a star athlete, Alex Morgan helped write a book series (called The Kicks) about four girls who play soccer. Often, when people think about writing books, they imagine authors. But many people work together to create a book. Editors help authors improve their writing and storytelling, illustrators create art to go along with the text, designers plan and create how each page will look, and marketing teams help sell the book to people and stores. Over the next few weeks, have students try a simplified version of this process.

Divide students into their groups of three. Each group will work together to create a five-page story about a topic they're interested in, following these 10 steps:

1. Have a group discussion to decide on a topic for the story.
2. Choose one person to be the author, one to be the illustrator, and one to be the editor.
3. Give the author two days to write a rough draft of the story.
4. Give the editor one day to read the draft and fill out Part 1 of the Editor Checklist. At the same time, give the illustrator one day to create a rough draft of a cover image for the book.
5. Give the author two days to revise the story.
6. Give the editor one day to read the revised story and fill out Part 2 of the Editor Checklist.

7. Give the illustrator two days to create rough drafts of one image for each page of the story.
8. Give the editor two days to review the cover art and inside images and fill out Part 3 of the Editor Checklist.
9. Give the illustrator two days to create the final version of the story, putting all the art and text together.
10. Have the editor present the group's finished story to the class.

After presenting, students should turn in their story using a pocket folder. The completed story should be in the left pocket. Printed copies of the rough-draft art, both drafts of the story, and all three parts of the Editor Checklist should go in the right pocket. The editor is responsible for keeping track of all these papers throughout the process.

Evaluation

Give each group up to 30 points for their project:

- 5 points for including both drafts of the story
- 5 points for including the rough drafts of the cover art and inside images
- 5 points for filling out all three parts of the Editor Checklist
- 5 points for creating a compelling storyline and interesting characters
- 5 points for creating art that enhances the text
- 5 points for writing that is relatively strong and free from errors

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 7 (W 7.3, 7.5).

Editor Checklist

Part 1

1. Did the author write a complete story that was five pages long?
2. What did you like about the story? List at least two things in the space below:
3. Did the opening paragraph grab your attention? If not, suggest some ways the author could make it more exciting:
4. Was any part of the story confusing? Describe any events you wanted to know more or less about:
5. Did the author create interesting, believable characters? Describe any characters whose words or actions seemed confusing or unrealistic:

6. Did the author use descriptive language? Describe any places that used passive voice, had weak verbs, lacked details, or were hard to understand:

7. Do you have any other suggestions for the author about the story or its title?

8. Did you email a copy of your suggested changes to the author?

Part 2

1. Did you read all the way through the revised story?

2. Did the author make changes based on your suggestions in Part 1?

3. Did you find and correct any mistakes in spelling and/or grammar?

4. Did you email a copy of the corrected story to the illustrator?

Part 3

1. Did the illustrator create one cover image and five interior images (one for each page of the story)?
2. Are the images a good match for the story's text? Write any suggested changes in the space below:
3. Are the characters and locations consistent from image to image? Write any suggested changes in the space below:
4. Did you proofread the whole story, checking for correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation?
5. Did you check the text's spacing, making sure there aren't missing or extra spaces between letters, words, lines, and paragraphs?
6. Did you email a copy of the finalized text to the illustrator?