

Titling a Book

Students will discuss the purpose of a book title, generate book titles that are memorable to them and explain why, and look at past SPI book titles that students have come up with to identify the “tricks” they used to grab and inform the readers. Students will work in groups to come up with a list of possible titles, and will vote on their favorites.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

By the end of this class, students will have met or accomplished 3 objectives:

- Identify the purpose of a title
- Identify the different “tricks” to make a title grab the audience
- Generate possible titles

MATERIALS

Overhead projector; blank transparencies; transparency of list of past SPI titles (attached); front board markers/chalk.

Do Now: Groups

3 MIN.

T: “Make a list of the best book titles you have ever heard of.”

Intro/Overview: Whole Class

2 MIN.

Overview of agenda and objectives.

Inquiry: Whole Class

10-15 MIN.

T: “Looking at your list of book titles, what do you think is the purpose of a book title?”

Add to transparency: “Purpose of a book title”

Students come up with purposes as the teacher lists on overhead. Include the following:

To grab the reader and make them want to read your book.

To inform the reader so he knows what the book is about.

To create images for the reader.

T: “Now, let’s look at some past titles of student-written books. Looking at your group’s list and this list, what are the ‘tricks’ to making a great book title?” Hand out attached list of SPI book titles. As students respond, write the qualities next to each of the titles.

Word play

Alliteration

Imagery

Not too short; not too long

Funny

Trendy

Shocking

Has a double meaning

Preparing for Groups:

Whole Class

5 MIN.

T: “Using these qualities, each group will come up with 3-5 title ideas. Before we get going, let’s think about the big words that connect to our topic.” Write these on an overhead (could be a word web):

Review the audience of this class’ book.

Lesson in Action: Groups

10-15 MIN.

T: (directions on overhead) “Now you will come up with your own titles in groups. You need to come up with 3 -5 that use the elements we discussed. After, you will put them on the board. Then the class will decide the three it likes best.”

Students work in groups to come up with titles. When finished, teacher asks a group member to put them on the board. The class will then find the top 5 titles for each class via discussion or voting and eventually narrow these down to 1 title for the students’ book.



SPI Book Titles

For Every Voice, A Different Truth

Small Schools, Big Questions

About Face

Back in the Day

Killing the Sky

Faces Going Places

Writers Unblocked

Dangerously Defined

Confessions of an Ex-Freshman

Silent Struggle

Turning the Periodic Table

Smoke Signals (oral histories)

Facing Memory

Speak to Us of Work

A “Sine” of the Times

Reading Between the Lines