Prompt

Write an essay for the school newspaper about a famous singer from the United States. Include the impact that singer had on the music industry.

Brainstorm

HOW TO TEACH STUDENTS TO BRAINSTORM

Simple Brainstorm Fill-in

Step 1: I am writing a(an) _expository text_ for _the school newspaper_
(type of text)   (audience)
about _the famous pop singer, Prince_
(topic)

Step 2: Here are my top ideas on _Prince_:
(topic)

– Singer and songwriter   – from Minneapolis, MN
– inducted in the Rock   – inspired other singers
  and Roll Hall of fame ('04)
– wide variety of genres   – also an actor
– began at age 18 (1976)   – guitar and vocals (mostly)
  (40 years of music)

Step 3: Here are my four best ideas on _Prince_:
(topic)

Singer & songwriter   wide variety of genres
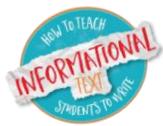influenced other musicians   personal life

Step 4: Do I have enough information to start writing about _Prince_?
(topic)

✓ Yes
____ No

If I don't, then I need to go back to Steps 2 and 3 and brainstorm more ideas.

Step 5: What is the best order for my ideas from Step 3?

Idea 1: Singer + songwriter
Idea 2: musical genres
Idea 3: influence on other musicians
Idea 4: personal life

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Thesis Statement

Step 1 → Prince

Step 2 → American Pop superstar

Step 3 → Prince was an American Pop superstar who sang and wrote songs.

Step 4 → Prince crossed a variety of musical genres.

Step 5 → Prince influenced other musicians.

Step 6 → Famous singers or people often seek recognition for their charitable gifts.

<u>Thesis Type #3</u>

Prince was an American Pop superstar because he was both a singer and a songwriter, his music crossed a variety of musical genres, and he influenced other musicians.

Content Map

Simple Content Map

HOW TO TEACH STUDENTS TO CONTENT MAP

Simple Content Map Fill-in

My topic is: Prince was a Pop superstar.

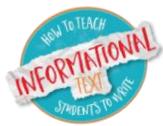My best ideas in order are:

Idea #1 Both a singer + songwriter

Idea #2 His music crossed a wide variety of musical genres.

Idea #3 He influenced other singers + songwriters.

Idea #4 He received numerous awards

Idea #1
Details/Fact 1: 39 studio albums 97 singles
Details/Fact 2: wrote songs for Sinead O'Connor, Cyndi Lauper, + the Bangles

Idea #2
Details/Fact 1: Funk, rock, R + B, pop
Details/Fact 2: Crossed genres even in a single song

Idea #3
Details/Fact 1: multi-instrumentalist
Details/Fact 2: used technology in his music

Idea #4
Details/Fact 1: Won seven Grammys, 32 nominations
Details/Fact 2: won three MTV video music awards, 12 nominations

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Organize Ideas

Introduction

- [Attention grabbing opener]
- Prince, an American Pop superstar!
- Who is an American Pop singer/songwriter that crosses a wide variety of musical genres?
- [Thesis]
- Prince was a music icon who won many awards during his forty years in the music business.

First Characteristic

- [Topic Sentence] Prince was both a singer and a songwriter.
- He recorded over thirty-nine albums and nearly a hundred singles.
- Sinead O'Connor, Cyndi Lauper, and the Bangles were among the artists that Prince wrote songs for.

Second Characteristic

- [Topic Sentence] Prince's music crossed a wide variety of musical genres. You can hear funk, rock, R&B, and pop in his songs.
- Jon Pareles (The New York Times) described Prince as "a master of architect of funk, rock, R&B, and Pop."
- Even in a single song you can hear a mix of genres. An example is the song "Sign o' the Times."

Third Characteristic

- [Topic Sentence] Prince's music influenced other singers and songwriters.
- He embraced and used technology in his music (synthesizers).
- He was a multi-instrumentalist (guitars, drums, keyboards, and wide vocal abilities)

Conclusion

The singer/songwriter, Prince, was a Pop superstar and his influence on music continues today.

Develop a Topic

HOW TO TEACH STUDENTS TO DEVELOP A TOPIC

Simple Develop a Topic Checklist

Make a checkmark next to everything you added:

Step 1
Go back and check to see where you can include more information to improve your writing

- ✓ Details
- ◯ Definitions
- ◯ Summaries
- ✓ Quotes   Jon Pareles (New York Times)
- ◯ Descriptions

Step 2
Ask yourself: Do I have enough details in my writing?

If **so**, do you need to add more? Or can you move to Step 3?

move on

If **not**, what is one detail that you could add?

Step 3
Ask yourself: Do I have definitions in my writing?

If **so**, do you need to add more? Or can you move to Step 4?

Yes

If **not**, what is one word that needs defining?

icon
genre

Step 4
Ask yourself: Do I have a summary in my writing?

If **so**, do you need to add another? Or can you move to Step 5?

move on

If **not**, what should you summarize?

Step 5
Ask yourself: Do I include quotes in my writing?

If **so**, do you need to add more? Or can you move to Step 6?

move on

If **not**, what quotes should you include?

Step 6
Ask yourself: Do I include descriptions in my writing?

If **so**, do you need to add more? Or are you done?

done

If **not**, what points need more description?

Completed Essay

Who is an American Pop singer/songwriter that crosses a wide variety of musical genres? Prince! Prince was a music icon, a symbol for Pop music, who won many awards during his forty years in the music business.

Prince's music crossed a wide variety of musical genres, or music categories. You can hear funk, rock, R&B, and pop in his songs. He recorded many albums which includes thirty-nine studio albums and nearly one hundred singles! After he died even more music not yet recorded was found. In addition to music he wrote and recorded himself, he also wrote songs for other musicians to record including Sinead O'Connor, Cyndi Lauper, and the Bangles.

Prince's music crossed a wide variety of musical genres. You can hear funk, rock, R&B, and pop in his songs. Jon Pareles, a writer for *The New York Times*, described Prince as "a master of architect of funk, rock, R&B, and Pop." Even in a single song you can hear a mix of genres. An example is the song "Sign o' the Times."

Prince's music influenced other singers and songwriters. He was a leader in using synthesizers and eager to embrace the use of technology in his music. In addition to his amazing wide-range of vocal abilities he was also a multi-instrumentalist; he played guitars, keyboards, drums. You name it, he could play it! The singer/songwriter, Prince, was a Pop superstar and his influence on music continues today.

Revise, Edit, and Proofread

HOW TO TEACH STUDENTS TO REVISE, EDIT AND PROOFREAD

Simple Student Checklist for Revising, Editing and Proofreading

Purpose: To look at and fix up the big picture of my writing

- ☑ I stayed on the topic that matched the writing prompt
- ☑ I have an opening statement or sentence that tells what I'm writing about
- ☑ I have included important details that tell more about my topic
- ☑ I have a concluding statement or sentence

Purpose: To look at and fix up my wording

- ☑ When I read my writing aloud, it doesn't sound choppy
- ☑ I used words like "finally," "next" or "then" to give my reader the clue that I was making a new point or closing my essay
- ☑ I have used vocabulary words that help explain my topic

Purpose: To make my writing look professional

- ☑ I have spell-checked
- ☑ I have checked my spacing
- ☑ I have used my best handwriting or typing
- ☑ I have read my piece aloud one last time asking myself, "Does it make sense?"