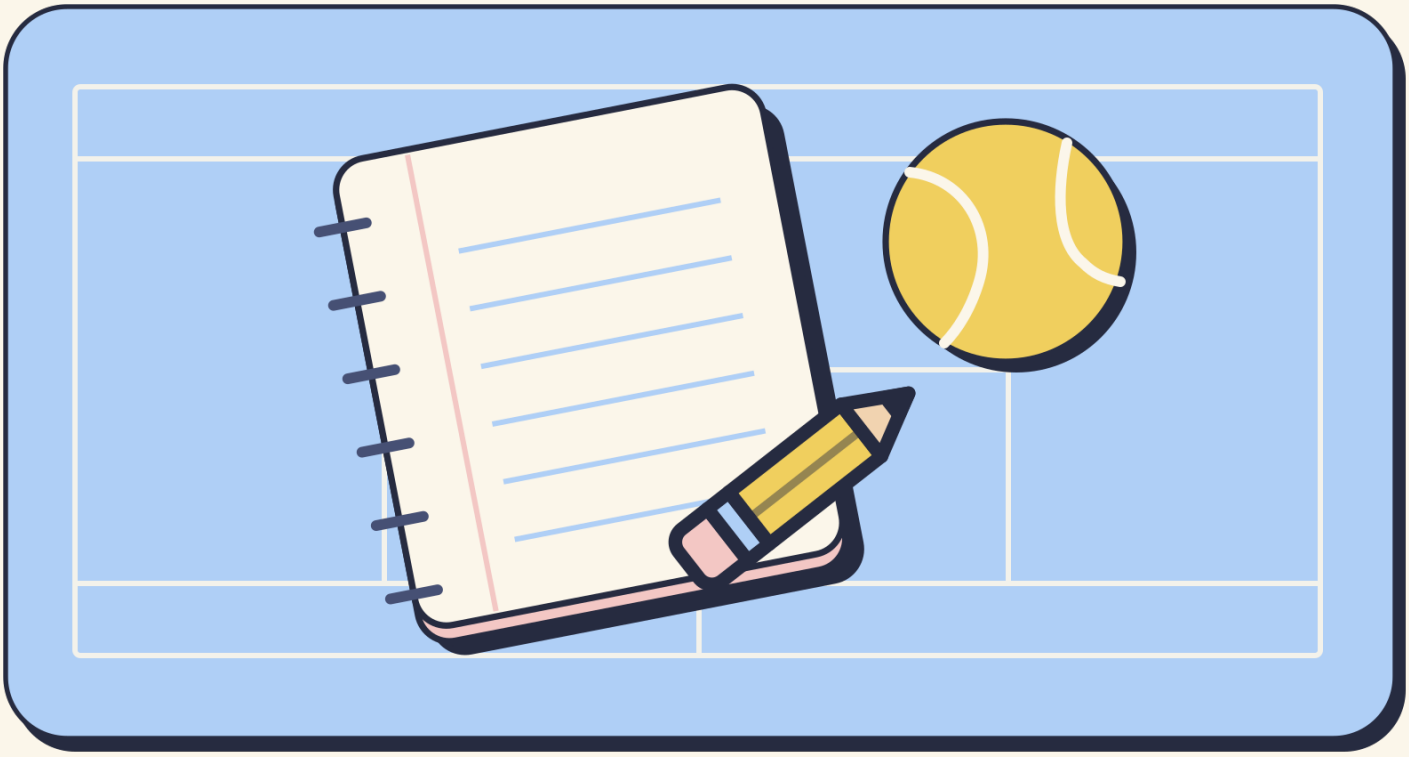
Jessica Brunson
TEACHING & TUTORING

Inspired by the 2023 US Open

How a Love of Tennis Sparked a Writing Unit

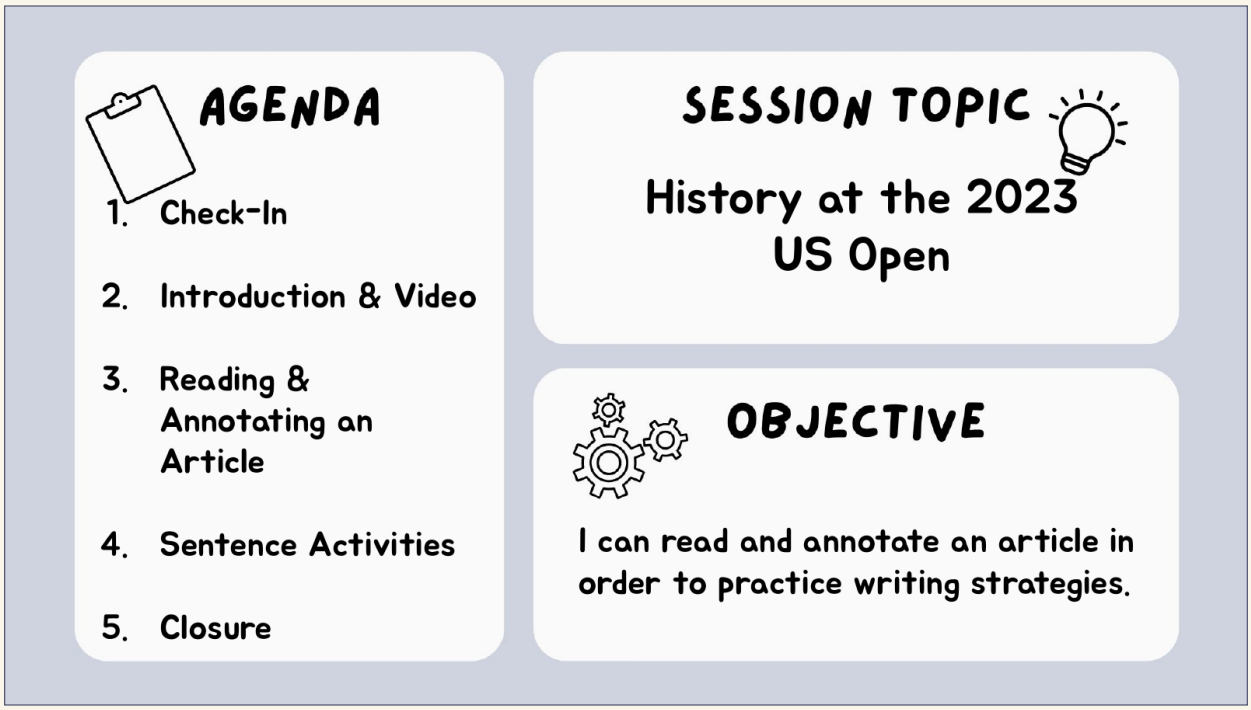
I built this unit around a student's interest in tennis. We read about the US Open and practiced turning details from the article into a paragraph.



Reading and Taking Notes

Lesson Agenda

We started with a check-in before reading and marking up the article.



Reading Notes

A two-column organizer helped us compare Coco Gauff and Novak Djokovic.

Coco Gauff	Novak Djokovic
• Coco Gauff was ↑ in popularity / tennis world • losing to Iga Swiatek / 2022 French Open → disappointed ↻ promised / come back stronger • 2023 US Open finals / Coco Gauff = underdog • Sabalenka won / first set ↻ Gauff finished strong + won / 1st Grand Slam title • Gauff made history b/c youngest American / win Grand Slam title since 1999	• Novak Djokovic = expected / win → overpowered Medvedev in 3 straight sets • Djokovic / many accomplishments / ex. most singles Grand Slam titles, 1st man / win 3 Grand Slam events in same season + oldest / win a US Open • no plans of retiring → expect ↑ accomplishments in future

Reading source: "Coco Gauff and Novak Djokovic Make History at US Open Tennis Finals," Kavi Dolasia.

From Notes to an Outline

Sentence Practice

We took "They made history" and added who, where, when, and how.

They made history.

Who? Coco Gauff + Novak Djokovic

Where? at the US Open Tennis Championship

When? in 2023

How? by breaking records

Expanded Sentence:

Coco Gauff and Novak Djokovic made history at the US Open Tennis championship in 2023 by breaking records. / In 2023, at the US Open Tennis Championship, Coco Gauff and Novak Djokovic made history by breaking records.

Paragraph Outline

We used the reading notes to plan a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion.

T.S. (Topic Sentence) At the 2023 US Open Tennis Championship, players Coco Gauff and Novak Djokovic made history by breaking records.

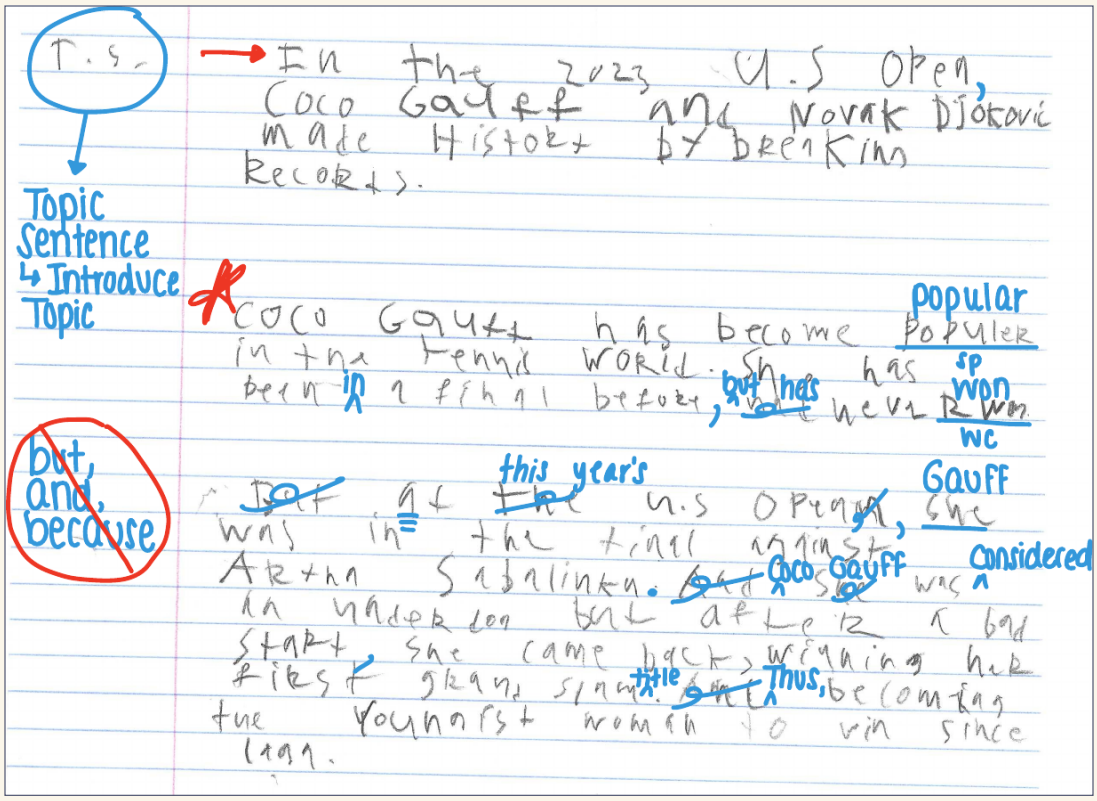
1. Coco Gauff was ↑ in popularity / tennis world ♪ considered underdog against competitor Aryna Sabalenka
2. Match = intense ♪ Gauff finished strong + won / 1st Grand Slam title → became youngest American / win since 1999
3. Unlike Gauff / Novak Djokovic = expected / win Grand Slam → overpowered Medvedev in 3 straight sets
4. Djokovic / many accomplishments / ex. most singles Grand Slam titles, 1st man / win 3 Grand Slam events in same season multiple times + oldest / win a US Open

C.S. (Concluding Statement) In conclusion, history was made at the 2023 US Open Tennis Championship by the incredible and talented tennis players, Coco Gauff and Novak Djokovic.

Revising the Draft

Handwritten Draft with My Feedback

I marked the topic sentence and suggested changes to word choice and transitions.



Final Paragraph

The student typed the revised paragraph after we worked through the draft.

U.S Open History Made in the City

In the 2023 U.S Open, Coco Gauff and Novak Djokovic made history by breaking records. Coco Gauff has become popular in the tennis world. She has been in a final before, but has never won. At this year's U.S. Open, Coco Gauff was in the final against Aryna Sabalenka. Coco Gauff was considered an underdog, but after a rocky start, she came back, winning her first Grand Slam Title. Thus becoming the youngest winner since 1999. Unlike Coco Gauff, Novak Djokovic was favored against Daniil Medvedev in the finals. Before the U.S. Open, Djokovic won 23 Grand Slam Titles. So, it was no surprise when he crushed Daniil Medvedev in three straight sets, winning his 24th title. As a result, Novak Djokovic now holds the record for most Grand Slam Titles of all time. In conclusion, Coco Gauff and Novak Djokovic made history at the 2023 U.S Open by breaking records.

Student work is shown as written. Names and session dates were removed.