

Grade 6 Playlist: Organizing Writing

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2.A:

- Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

Welcome

Organization is one of the most important elements of informational writing. A well organized essay includes an introduction, a body with ideas grouped according to a clear structure, and a conclusion. There are a variety of ways to organize the body of an essay; these include comparison/contrast, cause/effect, and classification. Formatting, graphics, and multimedia are additional tools writers use to present information in a way that is easy for readers to understand.

Objective

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- introduce the topic of an essay.
- organize ideas, concepts, and information, using different strategies, such as definition and comparison/contrast.
- use formatting, graphics, and multimedia to aid comprehension.

Review

Key Terms

- **Formatting** is the way text is styled, such as with headings, boldface, or lists.
- **Graphics** are visual presentations of information, such as charts, graphs, or diagrams.
- **Multimedia** means “many ways of communication” and refers to a mix of videos, sound, images, and/or text.

Exploring the Standard

In order to make sure that they organize their essay in the clearest way possible, writers can ask themselves questions like these:

- What is my topic? How will I introduce my thesis in an attention-getting way?
- What strategies would be useful in organizing my ideas? Should I use more than one?
- How can I use charts, graphs, or multimedia features to organize information and make it easier to understand?



A Closer Look: Introduce a Topic

When organizing an essay, it’s important to carefully introduce the topic, and set it up to be explored throughout the essay. Here are the elements of a strong, clear introduction:

- Start with a **hook** to grab readers’ attention. This could be a startling fact, an impressive statistic, or a question designed to make readers curious.
- Add a sentence to **transition** to your thesis statement.
- Write a **thesis statement** that states the main idea or argument of your whole essay.

Example 1

Hook — Did you know that one of the most beloved speeches in American history was improvised on the spot? Although he carefully wrote a speech for his March on Washington address, Martin Luther King put his notes aside and instead decided to declare, “I have a dream.” Thanks to King’s sudden decision, the March on Washington became a turning point in the Civil Rights movement.

Transition —

Thesis Statement —

Watch!

For more support writing an introduction to a report, watch this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPkwnf_PheM

A Closer Look: Organizing Ideas, Concepts, and Information

There are many different strategies writers can use to organize ideas in the body of an essay. Here are some of the most common methods:

Type	Purpose
Definition	Define a term and analyze its meaning.
Classification	Describe categories of information.
Comparison/Contrast	Tell similarities and differences between items.
Cause/Effect	Describe how one or more causes leads to one or more effects.
Problem/Solution	Describe a problem and then explain the steps to solving it.

