

Grade 7 Playlist: Organizing Writing

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2.A:

- Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; 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 that previews what is to follow, 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, previewing what is to follow.
- organize ideas, concepts, and information, using different strategies, such as definition, comparison/contrast and cause/effect.
- 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 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 the thesis statement.
- Write a **thesis statement** that states the main idea or argument of the whole essay.
- Give readers a **preview** of the main points that the essay will cover.

Example 1

Hook: Martin Luther King's most famous speech was improvised.

Thesis: King's speech helped make the March on Washington a turning point for Civil Rights.

Main points to preview:

- The March increased popular support for Civil Rights.
- It led to laws ending segregation.
- It became a model for nonviolent protest.

Introduction with hook, thesis, and preview of main points:

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. This successful event increased popular support for Civil Rights, led to laws ending segregation, and became a model for nonviolent protest.

