

## Grade 8 Playlist: Organizing Writing

*Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.2.A:*

- Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories; 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 into logical categories, and a conclusion. 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 into broader categories.
- 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 is the best way to organize my ideas? Into what categories can I divide information?
- 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.

The three points the writer previewed in the introduction will then be discussed in detail throughout the body paragraph. By introducing these ideas in the introduction, the writer is telling readers what points he or she is using to support the thesis.

### Watch!

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPkwnf\\_PheM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPkwnf_PheM)

