

Grade 6 Playlist: Introduce Topics and Organize Ideas to Aid Comprehension

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

In an informational text, an introduction plays an important role in setting up the text and making the purpose clear. After a writer has introduced the topic and purpose of discussing the topic, it is time to present the concepts and ideas related to it. Organization allows a writer to order this information in a logical way that will make sense to the reader. There are many different organizational strategies to suit the purposes of different writers and texts. Some texts are even organized with multiple strategies to help get a writer's point across. In addition, some writers use special features such as graphics to aid in comprehension. So by using organizational strategies and formatting, graphics, and multimedia, writers are able to make sense of things that might otherwise seem confusing or unrelated.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- introduce a topic and clearly organize the information related to it.
- recognize organizational strategies and features that aid comprehension of a text.

Review

Key Terms:

- A **graphic** is a visual representation used to display information clearly.
- **Multimedia** refers to content that uses a combination of different forms, such as text, images, audio, or video.
- A **section** is a collection of sentences or paragraphs that cover the same part of a topic.
- A **topic** is the main idea, focus, or subject of a text.



Exploring the Standard

A Closer Look: Introducing Topics

What is the role of an introduction in a piece of informational writing? First and foremost, an introduction sets the purpose and tone of the writing. It gives the reader a good idea of what the text will be about. Another important function of the introduction is to capture a reader's interest and get him or her excited about reading the rest of the text.

To better understand what makes a strong introduction, take a look at the following assignment Ralph is working on for English class.

Topic:	Ancient Locks and Keys
Prompt:	Locks and keys help protect people and their valuables. They have been around for thousands of years. Where did these inventions come from and how have they changed over time?
Assignment:	Write an essay answering the questions. Use organization strategies and features to aid comprehension of the text.

First, Ralph thinks about who he is writing for. This will help him introduce the topic in a way that is clear and interesting for his readers. In this case, Ralph's essay is being written for people who are interested in learning about the origin of locks and keys. Therefore, his purpose for writing is to communicate facts about ancient locks and keys. Next, Ralph thinks about how to make his topic and purpose seem inviting and interesting to his readers.

Example

Take a look at Ralph's introduction to see what he came up with:

¹ How would you feel if someone entered your home while you were out and started going through your belongings? You'd be pretty upset, right? That's exactly how humans felt thousands of years ago, which is why they did something about it. The invention of locks and keys was an important moment in human history, but many people are unaware of where and when they were created or what they looked like.

To hook his readers' interest and draw them into the text, Ralph begins his introduction with a question. Then, he answers the question and introduces his topic. Lastly, he explains what his readers will learn in the text.

Later, Ralph will provide information related to the topic he presented in the introduction. He will have to explain where and when locks and keys were first developed and what they looked like.

Watch!

Watch the following video to learn more about writing an effective introduction for an informational text.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmzhagFzerg>

