

## Grade 8 Playlist: Introduce and Preview Topics and Organize Ideas into Broader Categories

*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

In an informational text, an introduction plays an important role in setting up the text, making the purpose clear, and previewing what is to come with some detail. After a writer has introduced his or her topic and previewed what is to follow in a text, it is time to present the concepts and ideas related to it. Organization allows a writer to order this information into broad categories that will be easier for a reader to follow. 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, as well as 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, preview what is to follow, 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 **preview** is something that gives an advance idea or impression of something to come.
- 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

The way a writer organizes information in a text is very important. Separating key information into broad categories makes it easier for readers to understand. When the organization is clear and effective, the text will convey and explain complex ideas clearly. In addition, writers can also include formatting, graphics, and multimedia to help readers fully comprehend a text.

### A Closer Look: Introducing Topics and Previewing What's to Follow

What is the role of an introduction in a piece of informational writing? First, the introduction is meant to capture a reader's interest and get him or her excited about reading the rest of the text. Another important function of an introduction is to set the purpose and tone of the writing. It should give the reader a good idea of what the text will be about. This is accomplished by previewing the information he or she will learn about while reading.

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

<b>Topic:</b>	Ancient Locks and Keys
<b>Prompt:</b>	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?
<b>Assignment:</b>	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. Then he thinks about how to preview what readers will learn in the text.

### Example

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

<sup>1</sup> 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 the specifics surrounding the invention: where and when they originated, what they looked like, and how they worked.

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 previews what his readers will learn in the text.

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

