

Six Traits Writing Workshop

WNY School Support Center UB Buffalo Public Schools

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Organization

Organization

Organization is the internal structure of the piece. Think of it as being like an animal's skeleton, or the framework of a building under construction.

Organization holds the whole thing together. That's why it's such an important trait. Many students say it is also one of the hardest traits to master. Maybe so. Isn't it hard sometimes to organize your room? Attic? Garage? A trip? Absolutely! Organizing your writing is much the same. You have to ask: Where do I begin? What comes next? After that? Which things go together? Which can be left out? How do I tie ideas together?

Teaching the Trait of Organization

- **An inviting lead**
- **Starts somewhere and goes somewhere**
- **Everything's connected**
- **It Builds *to* something**
- **A welcome surprise now and then**
- **Doesn't just stop—sense of resolution or completion**

Teaching the Trait of Organization, 2

- **Doesn't end with "Then I woke up and it was all a dream"**
- **Everything's connected**
- **Doesn't end with a redundant, banal, or preachy summary:
"Now know the three reasons why we must all join in the war on drugs."**

Organization Rubric



4 That's it! Clear and compelling, easy to follow!

- a. I give my reader a strong sense of direction. The structure of my paper helps make the meaning clear.**
- b. My opening gets the reader's attention and gives a clue about what's coming.**
- c. I've made the connections so clear you'll see just how details link to the main idea.**
- d. The pacing is just right. I sped along when appropriate, but slowed down when details and close-ups were needed.**
- e. I didn't stop suddenly or drag the paper out. I ended in a good spot—and with a good thought. My conclusion will make you linger a moment.**

Organization Rubric



3 Almost there

- a. Everything seems in order. You won't feel like reshuffling the deck.**
- b. I have a beginning, but I'm not sure it's a grabber. How many readers will keep going?**
- c. I have a conclusion. It might not be as punchy or insightful as I'd like.**
- d. You can see how I got from point to point.**

Organization Rubric



2 On my way—Ready for serious revision

- a. It's partly smooth, partly bumpy, some shape. Some direction. You won't feel lost if you pay attention.**
- b. Usually, you can see how I got from point to point, but you might need to make some leaps.**
- c. Most things are in the right spot. Some things might need to be moved.**

Organization Rubric



1 Just Beginning

- a. My writing doesn't have a real shape or direction yet.
- b. I'm not sure where to begin or where to go next.
- c. What goes with what?
- d. How does my information connect to the main idea?
- e. Ideas seemed jumbled, scrambled. It's just a list of stuff.
- f. How do I end this?

Organization

Organization is the internal structure of the piece—how the whole piece of writing is shaped.

Key Abilities:

- **Structure the whole piece**
- **Connect ideas logically or chronologically**
- **Beginning Introduction**
- **Middle Body**
- **Ending Conclusion**

Organization

Key Strategies:

- Visualize overall organization pattern
- Group ideas you've listed into categories of related items
- Arrange ideas into paragraphs
- Interesting Lead
- Chronological Sequencing
- Logical Sequencing
- Effective transitions
- Conclusion tells what was learned

