

PRE-WRITING: ORGANIZATION AND LANGUAGE/STYLE

Purpose

Practice how to support your analysis and establish clear, meaningful connections between ideas. This will help you develop a more convincing argument in your writing. You might do this to prepare for writing an essay, or simply to practice organizing your ideas.

Process

1. Review the Organization portion of the [OER Project Writing Rubric](#), below. Keep these criteria in mind as you complete the chart on the next page.

Present ideas in a structure that supports reader understanding of your claim and reasoning:
Order the source evidence and explanations in a way that reinforces your argument.
Explain how the evidence and reasoning connects and supports the claim.
Craft a strong introduction and conclusion.
Include clear transitions between each subtopic and section to show the connections among the ideas.

2. Write the thesis/major claim you'll be using in response to this prompt: *How did industrialization impact society during the long nineteenth century?* Then, follow each of the steps below to organize your essay.

My thesis/major claim:

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Step 1: Ordering of supporting claims

Consider three supporting claims that reinforce your thesis/major claim and write them in the first column. Then, in columns two and three, reorder your supporting claims. Read through each order and put a star next to the option you think is strongest. Remember, there are many ways to effectively organize supporting claims. For example, you can organize your ideas by category, specificity, or importance.

Order option 1	Order option 2	Order option 3
Supporting claim	Supporting claim	Supporting claim
Supporting claim	Supporting claim	Supporting claim
Supporting claim	Supporting claim	Supporting claim

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Step 2: Introductory paragraph

Your intro paragraph lays out the structure of your argument. This means that the order you outlined above in step 1 will help you write your introduction *and* organize your body paragraphs. Using your selected ordering of supporting claims from step 1, add transition words and phrases to emphasize that order and show your critical thinking. Note that these transition words can be used in your introduction, but also in the body of the paper to help you transition between paragraphs.

Example transitions:	My supporting claims with transitions:
• For instance... In addition... Furthermore... • On one hand...(reasons against); However, on the other hand... and also...(reasons for) • First... Second... Finally... • In the beginning... Later... Eventually... • (First reason), because of that... Therefore..." • First of all... More important... Above all...	Supporting claim 1
	Supporting claim 2

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- By comparison... - Still... Ultimately...	Supporting claim 3

Step 3: Conclusion

Fill out the table below to help you consider ways to write your conclusion and sketch out some closing thoughts. When you draft your conclusion later, you can incorporate these ideas into your essay's concluding paragraph.

Example conclusion transitions:	My supporting claims with transitions:
- For all these reasons... - Taken together... - All of these events show... - In conclusion... - The logical conclusion of these... - Simply put... - In other words... - In sum...	List a transition statement you could use to open your concluding paragraph.
	Summarize the supporting claims you presented and their significance.

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• Altogether... • On the whole...	Describe why your argument is important.
	Restate your thesis/major claim. You may choose to use another example transition here.