

## Organization

**Key Question: Does the organizational structure enhance the ideas and make them easier to understand?**

Not Proficient						Proficient					
	1-Beginning	2-Emerging	3-Developing	4-Capable	5-Experienced	6-Exceptional					
	Organization can't be identified; writing lacks sense of direction or seems random	Organization is mostly ineffective with only sections here and there directing reader	Organization is uneven, affecting ability to follow text	Organization moves reader logically through text without confusion	Organization is smooth and cohesive, highlighting main ideas	Organization enhances and showcases central ideas; structure of information clarifies relationships among ideas					
A	No lead or conclusion are present	Either no lead or no conclusion is present	Lead and/or conclusion are inadequate to establish purpose and provide closure leaving the reader with questions	Recognizable lead and conclusion are present and adequate; they may be mechanical or obvious	Lead creates a sense of anticipation; the conclusion ties up loose ends with satisfactory closure	Inviting lead draws reader in and creates a strong sense of anticipation; a satisfying conclusion leaves reader with strong sense of closure and resolution					
B	Transitions between ideas are confusing or nonexistent	Weak transitions are sporadically present, yet do not connect ideas or minimize confusion	Transitions used inappropriately or repeat, resulting in weak chunking of paragraphs or ideas	Transitions connect ideas; paragraphs come together with topic sentences and support; transitions may be formulaic or predictable in places	Transitions are logical and varied, using sequence and transition words and phrases to move the reader through the piece	Thoughtful transitions clearly show the reader how ideas relate, enhancing meaning and progress throughout the piece so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole					
C	No sequencing of ideas is evident	Sequencing is ineffective, making it difficult to see how piece fits together as a whole	Sequencing does not showcase ideas, or sequencing has taken over so completely it is formulaic	Sequencing is logical and helpful, with ideas in an understandable order	Sequencing moves beyond the obvious, building connections between ideas	Sequencing is highly effective, making best choices for progression and enriching the reader's understanding so that each new element builds on that which precedes it to create a unified whole					
D	Pacing is not evident	Pacing is very uneven, slowing when reader wants to move quickly, and vice versa	Pacing is appropriately controlled in some sections but not in others	Pacing is appropriately controlled throughout	Pacing is well controlled throughout to space ideas appropriately	Pacing is used skillfully to compel the reader through the piece and enhance its power					
E	Title (if required) is absent or misleading	Title (if required) doesn't match content well	Title (if required) is formulaic or non-descriptive	Title (if required) connects to the central theme	Title (if required) reflects content in an unusual or interesting way	Title (if required) is original, pointing to or capturing a deeper meaning and drawing the reader in					
F	Lack of structure leaves reader struggling to find purpose	Loose structure leaves reader unclear or confused about purpose	Structure begins to reflect purpose in places, but distracting in others	Structure works to communicate purpose but may not enhance understanding	Structure supports and clarifies purpose for reader	Structure flows so smoothly reader hardly notices; structure enhances understanding of purpose					