

Lesson 1.4: The Writing Process

Prewriting: Arranging Your Ideas

After you have gathered ideas, you need to spend some time arranging, or ordering them. There are four common ways to order ideas.

ARRANGING IDEAS

<i>Type of Order</i>	<i>Definition</i>	<i>Examples</i>
<i>Chronological</i>	Narration: order that presents events as they happen in time	Story, narrative poem, explanation of a process, drama, history, biography
<i>Spatial</i>	Description: order that describes objects accordingly to location	Descriptions (near to far, outside to inside, left to right, top to bottom)
<i>Importance</i>	Evaluation: order that gives details from least to most important or the reverse	Persuasion, description, explanations, evaluation
<i>Logical</i>	Classification: order that relates items and groups	Definitions, classifications

Exercise 5: Arranging Ideas

On your own paper, identify the method of organization that would be best for each of the following writing situations. Be prepared to explain your choice of order.

1. You are writing a report on Guatemala and are describing the Mayan city of Tikal.
2. You want to give three reasons why your Masjid should build a new school.
3. You want to discuss the differences between homemade macaroni and cheese and box macaroni and cheese.
4. You want to explain how to make a pizza.