



Literacy at Hartford Public High School

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Ways of Organizing Paragraphs from Reader's Handbook, Great Source

Helping students to recognize the format that a reading piece employs is an important step in their being able to understand what they are reading. In addition, using visual aids (i.e., graphic organizers) to help students see what they are reading is yet another help to increase understanding.

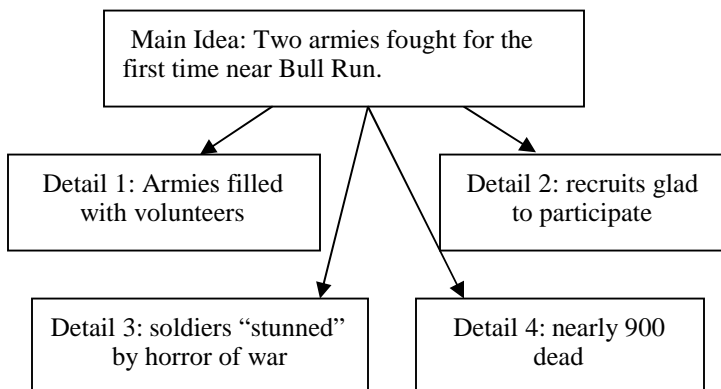
Order of Importance: Most Important to Least Important

When the details of a paragraph are organized by order of importance, a writer begins with the most important idea and moves to the least important idea.

Notice how the following paragraph begins with the most important point and then provides four details to support it.

On a warm day July day in 1861, *two great armies of a divided nation clashed for the first time on the fields overlooking Bull Run*. [This is the main idea.] *Their ranks were filled with enthusiastic young volunteers* [detail 1] in colorful new uniforms, gathered together from every part of the country. Confident that their foes would run at the first shot, *the raw recruits were thankful* [Detail 2] that they would not miss the only battle of what surely would be a short war. But any thought of colorful pageantry was suddenly lost in the smoke, din, dirt, and death of battle. *Soldiers on both sides were stunned by the violence and destruction* [Detail 3] they encountered. At day's end, *nearly 900 young men lay lifeless* [Detail 4] on the fields of Matthews Hill, Henry, Hill and Chinn Ridge.

Using a graphic organizer that includes main idea and supporting details would help students to keep track of the points that the author is making.



Classroom Management Ideas

<http://atozteacherstuff.com/pages/4169.shtml>

Teaching is a great job if you can do two things: 1) Teach the students to be kind and polite. 2) Manage the paperwork.

CANI: Constant And Never-ending Improvement

If you improve by 10% per year, in a very short period of time you will be one of the best teachers in the school.

Blaming the students, their parents, their neighborhood or your principal for rude and disrespectful behavior only eliminates your chance to effect change. Many teachers like to play the blame game. They do not take responsibility for their students' behavior, but are quick to place blame on someone else. If you acknowledge your own responsibility as a teacher and a mentor to your students, you have the opportunity to change in your classroom.

Get as many students on your side as possible.

Consider this anecdote the next time you're frustrated by uncooperative or, worse, hostile students.

I was talking to a new teacher in the room next to mine. He asked, "Why are your classes so calm and orderly and mine so chaotic?"

As usual, I was thinking about war. "It is like war," I replied. "War? What do you mean? Aren't you supposed to be nice to them?"

"Rule one in warfare: get as many guys on your side as possible." What do I mean by this? If you have thirty kids in your room, and if twenty-eight like you, your discipline problems are over. Always be nice to the students. Always be positive. Tell them how much you like them. Mention their new shirts and shoes and haircuts and any other successes they have had. After all, how many people like you, but you don't like them? Not many. Teenagers are the same, if someone likes them; they are far more likely to like the other person. Work every day on finding the good in each, and praising it. Smiling solves many problems. Each day is new and precious--act accordingly.