In the **Organization** category, you have achieved a rating of **Developing**.

You can improve your writing score in this category by revising your essay based on specific criteria.

In order to move up to the **Proficient** rating, your writing must

* include a clear organizational structure;
* include transitions that show the relationship between and among ideas; and
* include an introduction and concluding statement or section.

You should remember a few things when revising for your essay’s organization:

**Establishing Organization Structure**

Your body paragraphs can be organized using different strategies, such as listing reasons weakest to strongest, arranging in a chain of causes and effects, or using a point/counterpoint or pros/cons pattern.

**Improving Transitions**

Depending on the specific structure chosen, you should use appropriate transition words and phrases such as *next, another, but, however,* or *on the other hand*.

**Establishing an Introduction and Conclusion**

1. Your introduction should introduce the topic and state your claim.
2. The conclusion should restate your claim, summarize how you defended your claim, and encourage the reader to both agree and take action.

Now, revise your essay to improve its organization. Use the organizers on the next page to plan your revision.

**Directions:** First, be sure you have included all necessary components. Next, select an organizational structure and be sure you have included strong transitions.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Questions for Reviewing Your  Essay’s Organization** | **Yes or No** | **Sequential Transitions** | **Weakest to Strongest Transitions** |
| Introduction: Why is the issue important? What’s your claim? |  | People have been debating… because... | There are three main reasons why this is true... |
| What’s your first point?  Did you support it with evidence?  Did you connect your evidence to the reason and link it back to the claim? |  | First...  To begin with...  As a starting point... | One of the reasons is... |
| What’s your next point?  Did you support it with evidence?  Did you connect your evidence to the reason and link it back to the claim? |  | Secondly...  In addition...  Furthermore... | Perhaps even more importantly, |
| What’s your final point?  Did you support it with evidence?  Did you connect your evidence to the reason and link it back to the claim? |  | Finally...  Lastly...  A final important... | The strongest reason why…  Most importantly,  Despite all... |
| Conclusion:  Did you include a summary?  Did you restate your claim? |  | Based on all the reasons why...there is only one way to... | Despite the argument that...anyone can see that... |