

Area/Skill - LA, Writing	Cognitive Skill Level - Application	Correlation to Framework - 01.06, 01.07	Lesson Number - 34
<p><b>Activity Title - Organizing Paragraphs</b></p> <p><b>Goal/Objective</b></p> <p>To use clue words in arranging paragraphs and identifying irrelevant sentences.</p> <p><b>Lesson Outline</b> <b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Students need to be able to put their thoughts in order. Clue words often assist them in determining correct sequence and sentences that do not belong in a paragraph.</p> <p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>Have students brainstorm clue (transition) words. Use this list to assist students in ordering paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays. Samples of transition or clue words include: then, also, first, second, in addition to, because, furthermore, best of all, etc. Divide the class into small groups. Provide students with sample paragraphs or multi-paragraph essays that are out of order. Using the list of transition words, have the students reconstruct the paragraphs in correct order.</p> <p><b>Debriefing/Evaluation Activity</b></p> <p>Have students read aloud their reconstructed paragraphs/essays. Have them discuss the reasons for their paragraph order and the transition words that they used to construct an organized paragraph.</p>			<p><b>Materials/Texts/Realia/Handouts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideas for transition word lists</li> <li>• Paragraphs or multi-paragraph essays in random order</li> </ul>
<p><b>Real-Life Connection</b></p> <p>Many daily activities require organization skills. The use of clue or transition words can be helpful in completing these types of tasks. Divide the class into small groups. Have each group construct a set of “how-to” instructions that can be completed in class. Provide the list to other groups and see whether the groups can successfully complete the task.</p>			<p><b>Extension Activity</b></p> <p>Have students compose sample paragraphs and place the sentences in random order. Have the students share their paragraphs with other students who will reconstruct the paragraphs into an organized structure.</p> <p><b>ESE/ESOL Accommodations</b></p> <p>Provide students with sample list of clue or transition words.</p> <p>Divide class into small groups to complete activities.</p> <p>Provide additional time for activities.</p>

## GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans

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### Activity Title - Organizing Paragraphs

#### Introduction

*Say:* Many of our daily activities require us to do things in a specific order. Certain clue or transition words can help us better understand how to organize written communications. These words also help in identifying those things that do not fit into the order of a paragraph or essay. Omitting unnecessary information can help in making the order of one's writing clearer.

#### Main Activity

*Ask:* What is a transition word? Sometimes they are often called clue words. Let's see how many transition or clue words that we can list.

Have the students brainstorm different transition words and write them on the board or chart paper.

*Say:* Now let's look at some sample paragraphs where these words are used. First, get into small groups of four or five. I will give you a sample paragraph that is not in order. Using the different transition words, reconstruct the paragraph into an organized format that effectively communicates one idea. When you are done, read your paragraph aloud.

Individual paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays that are not in the correct order should be used in this activity. Provide students with multiple practice in ordering ideas into correctly written paragraphs.

#### Debriefing/Evaluation Activity

*Ask:* Why is it important to put things in order? *Say:* When reading questions on the GED Language Arts, Writing Test, you will be asked to place sentences in order or to edit a writing sample by deleting sentences or revising the passage. Using effective organization skills is also helpful in writing your persuasive essay.

*Say:* There are many instances in which order is essential to writing - map directions, how-to documents, workplace letters and memos, etc. Putting paragraphs in correct order is one way to begin gaining skills in effective organization.