



Lesson 2

Develop an Idea

4.11(B)

Develop drafts into a focused, structured, and coherent piece of writing by:
(i) organizing with purposeful structure, including an introduction, transitions, and a conclusion;
(ii) developing an engaging idea with relevant details.



Introduction

What I Am Going to Learn

- Write an engaging introduction that hooks the reader.
- Use transitions to connect phrases and ideas.
- Use transition words to outline a sequence, compare and contrast, or alert the reader about an important fact or an upcoming conclusion.
- Write different types of conclusions.

What I May Already Know 3.11(B)

- I have already written some drafts.
- I have practiced organizing and structuring my writing with an introduction and conclusion.
- I have practiced developing main ideas with important details.

Understand the TEKS

Purposeful Structure

In order for your readers to best understand your message, it is important that your writing is organized in a purposeful structure. Good writing should contain a strong **introduction**, **transitions** to link phrases and ideas together, and a satisfying **conclusion**. Structure and purposeful writing will keep the readers' attention, which will help convey your message.

Words to Know

introduction
transition
conclusion

Introduction

The introduction is one of the most important parts of your writing. It is the first sentence or paragraph. If readers are not interested in what you have to say after reading the first sentence or paragraph, they probably will not finish reading your piece. Writers use many different techniques to hook their readers from the very beginning.

- **Startling fact** Some writers like to surprise the reader with unusual information or a rare fact about the topic. You may have to do a little background research to discover something your readers do not already know, but it is one way to dazzle your audience.
- **Question** Asking a question is a great way to have the reader wondering about what's next. Did you know...? and Have you ever...? are two common questions writers use to start their pieces.

- **Dialogue** Why not jump right into the heart of the story with a conversation between two characters from the story? Do not forget to use quotation marks around the characters' words.
- **Description** Use your imagination to describe a character or the setting by choosing language that appeals to the reader's senses. Use words to describe sights, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes that the reader can easily put together to form a mental picture.
- **Onomatopoeia** Some writers use words that make interesting sounds to grab the reader's attention. *Bam, achoo, vroom,* and *zip* are just a few of a huge list of words you can use to engage your reader.

Think About It

Challenge a classmate to a word duel. Grab a pencil and a piece of paper. Set a timer for one minute or make note of the time. Take turns calling out as many onomatopoeia words as you can in one minute. To make it more challenging, begin with the letter A and progress through the end of the alphabet. The person with the longer list wins.

Transitions

Transitions are words writers use to connect ideas and phrases or to show relationships between ideas. They help your writing flow smoothly from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph. The transition words you use will depend on the genre you are writing. Some transitions work best for informational texts, while others should only be used for narratives.

Sequence of Events

first
second
then
next
after
afterward
finally
before
earlier
later
until
last
a year ago
during
now
tomorrow
meanwhile
when

Comparison and Contrast

Alike
like
also
both
similarly
in the same way

Different
although
but
however
unlike
in contrast
on the other hand

Cause and Effect

because
since
so
so that
therefore
as a result
if

Emphasis

in fact
for this reason

Conclusion

finally
in summary
in conclusion

Conclusion

The conclusion is the ending of the piece. Like the introduction, it can be a real challenge to write, but it is very important to your writing. The conclusion should leave the reader satisfied and may sometimes leave a lasting impression. The ending may be happy or sad, or simply leave the reader wondering. There are many different types of conclusions you can try. Here are just a few.

- **Rephrase the opening** Some writers remind the reader of the main idea of the piece. They just say it in a different way. This is a very simple way to end your writing.
- **Lesson learned** Writers sometimes end by telling the reader what he or she learned from the experience.
- **Hope or wish** The writer may leave the reader with a wish or a hope.
- **Question** Just as you can begin with a question, ending the piece with a question can be just as powerful. The question can be rhetorical, which means the reader really would not have an answer.
- **Cliffhanger** In a narrative, the writer may end the story in the midst of an action that leaves the reader wondering what happened next. This technique can be very suspenseful.
- **Last word** Keep the reader focused on the main character and his/her story by ending with dialogue. Let the main character have the final word.

Ask yourself these questions.

- Did I make sure my introduction grabbed the reader's attention within the first few lines?
- Does my writing contain a purposeful structure?
- Did I use transition words that match my genre and message?
- Does my ending leave my reader satisfied or wanting to read more?

**Guided Instruction**

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

Bats: The Flying Mammal

(1) Zing. Zip. Zoop-de-doo. (2) Bats race through the sky at night searching for tasty treats. (3) Many people are afraid of bats because they think the bats will bite them. (4) What they don't know is bats are very helpful. (5) Most bats fill their bellies with juicy, pesky bugs all through the night. (6) Fruit bats eat fruit and spread the pollen and seeds all around, making new plants.

(7) You probably think bats are birds. (8) This could never be more wrong. (9) Bats are mammals just like people, dogs, and horses. (10) Their small bodies are covered in fur, but their wings are covered with skin. (11) Bats have thin bones inside their wings that are called *fingers*. (12) Their babies are born live and are fed milk.

Guided Questions

What introductory technique does the writer use to hook the reader?

What is the best transition to add at the beginning of sentence 6?

How does the writer use relevant details to connect lines 7–12 back to the title or main idea?

(13) Bats are nocturnal. (14) That means they sleep during the day and fly around at night. (15) Bats have good eyesight. (16) Their hearing is sharp too. (17) They make sounds that bounce off of trees. (18) This helps them fly in the dark to find food.

(19) Bats are amazing creatures. (20) For this reason, you should go out to your local library and check out a book to learn more about them.

Guided Questions

What might the reader do to make sentences 15 and 16 flow more smoothly?

Why did the reader use the transition phrase in sentence 20?

Critical Thinking



1. Write a paragraph about something you did with a family member this week. Remember to capture the reader's attention from the very beginning and use transitions to connect ideas.



2. What type of introduction did you use for this short assignment?



3. How did you use transitions to make your sentences flow more smoothly?

The Writer's Craft Using the paragraph you wrote above about a family member, rewrite and improve it with smooth transitions. Use the charts in the lesson to help you figure out which transitions would best improve your writing. Meet with a partner. Compare and contrast each other's before-and-after pieces. What additional changes did your partner suggest that will make your piece even better?

How Am I Doing?

- ★ What questions do you have?

- ★ Write an engaging introduction sentence for a paper about birds.

- ★ Color in the traffic signal that shows how you are doing with the skill.





Independent Practice

Read the prompt below again. Then answer the questions that follow it.

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Personal Narrative

Look at the picture below.



Feeling proud of yourself brings a happy smile to your face.

Write about a time when you did something that made you proud of yourself.

Be sure to—

- tell about something you did
- organize the events in a logical order
- include details to support your ideas
- use language that helps your reader picture what happened
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Use the organizer below to help you begin to share the ideas for your response.

<p>Introduction Technique</p>	<p>Beginning</p>
	<p>Middle</p>
<p>Conclusion Strategy</p>	<p>End</p>

SAMPLE



Exit Ticket

Now that you know how to write a paragraph with a strong introduction that engages the reader and uses transition words that connect phrases and ideas, read the paragraph below. Then, follow the directions.



Beep! Beep! Beep! Beep! It took me two seconds to shut off my alarm as I jumped out of bed to get dressed. Yippee! Today was the day my family and I were headed to Natural Bridge Caverns in San Antonio. First, I had to pack my flashlight and batteries, my water bottle, and my kneepads. Then, I had to help my dad pack the car. Finally, my family and I would pile into the car and drive four hours to explore the incredible network of underground tunnels formed thousands of years ago. This was going to be the most awesome vacation ever!

In the paragraph above, identify the following.

1. Underline the main idea of the paragraph.
2. Circle two examples of onomatopoeia.
3. Draw a box around three transition words.