



**Romel Cabling** ▾



[Home](#)

[Home](#) > [My courses](#) > [121 - ITE3](#) > [03 Organizing Ideas and Setting Goals](#) > [Lesson Proper for Week 3](#)

# Lesson Proper for Week 3

## Using a Basic Order to Chart the Course of Your Work

Your finished paper should trace the issues, defend and support a thesis, and provide dynamic progression of issues and concepts that point forward to the conclusion. The paper should provide these elements:

- Identification of the problem or issue
- A review of the literature on the topic
- Your thesis or hypothesis
- Analysis of the issues
- Presentation of evidence
- Interpretation and discussion of the findings

In every case, you must generate the dynamics of the paper by (1) building anticipation in the introduction, (2) investigating the issues in the body, and (3) providing a final judgment. In this way, you will satisfy the demands of the academic reader, who will expect you to:

- Examine a problem
- Cite pertinent literature on it
- Offer your ideas and interpretation of it

All three are necessary in almost every instance. Consequently, your early organization will determine, in part, the success of your research paper.



## Using Your Research Proposal to Direct Your Notetaking

Your research proposal, if you developed one, introduces issues worthy of research. For example, the last sentence of this research proposal names three topics:

Everybody thinks water is plentiful and will always be here. I'm afraid that water might soon replace oil as an economic resource most treasured by nations. We already have legal battles about the sharing of water, and we may one day have wars over it. Preliminary reading has shown that a growing world population faces a global water supply that is shrinking. Accordingly, this paper will examine some of the issues with regard to supply and demand, the political power struggles that are emerging, and the ethical and perhaps even moral implications engulfing the world's scattered supply of fresh water.

This writer will search the literature and write notes to build an environmental examination of those who have good supplies of water and those who do not.

Another writer sketched the following research proposal, which lists the types of evidence necessary to accomplish her project:

Organ and tissue donation is a constant concern in our society.

This paper will expose the myths that prevail in the public's imagination and, hopefully, dispel them. It will explore the serious need of and benefits derived from donated organs and tissue. It will also itemize the organs and their use to rehabilitate the diseased and wounded. It will evaluate, but it will also be a proposal: Sign the donor card!

## Listing Key Terms and Phrases to Set Directions for Notetaking

Follow two fairly simple steps: (1) Jot down ideas or words in a rough list, and (2) expand the list to show a hierarchy of major and minor ideas. Student Norman Berkowitz started listing items that are affected by and depend on the world's water supply:

- *wildlife survival*
- *sanitation and hygiene*
- *irrigation of farms and the food supply*
- *bioscience issues*
- *water distribution*
- *global warming*
- *the Ogallala aquifer*

Berkowitz could begin notetaking with this list and label each note with one of the phrases.



## Writing a Rough Outline

As early as possible, organize your key terminology in a brief outline, arranging the words and phrases in an ordered sequence, as shown in this next example. Jamie Johnston began research in the matter of prehistoric wars. He soon jotted down this rough outline:

Prehistoric wars

- Evidence of weapons

- Evidence from skeletal remains

- Evidence of soldiers and fortresses

Reasons for early fighting

- Resources

- Slaves, concubines, and sacrificial victims

- Gold, silver, bronze, copper

- Revenge

- Defend honor

Cause for human compulsion to fight

- Biology

- Culture

This outline, although sketchy, provides the terminology needed for keyword searches on the Internet and in your library's databases. Also, it's not too early to begin initial reading and writing notes for the items on the list.

## RESEARCH TIP

### ***Using a Direct Quotation to Avoid Plagiarism***

In the early phases of his research, Jamie Johnston's Internet search located a useful site that provided the key idea for a thesis about prehistoric warfare. The Web article from *Musket, Sword and Paint* provided expert information:

A small group of causeways have shown signs of warfare. These sites have a more continuous ditch and are placed on top of a hilltop or spur. "Organized warfare was not new; it had been practiced for a millennium in pre-historic times," Arthur Ferrill.

The temptation for Jamie Johnston was to incorporate the ideas of the source into his paper without giving credit for the original thought to the author:

Organized warfare had been practiced for a millennium in prehistoric times.



To avoid this form of intentional plagiarism, and to add credibility to his own ideas, the student can add the name of the source and blend the direct quotation into his research:

According to Arthur Ferrill, "Organized warfare was not new; it had been practiced for a millennium in pre-historic times."

### Using Questions to Identify Issues

Questions can invite you to develop answers in your notes. Early in her work, one student made this list of questions:

What is a functional food?

How does it serve the body in fighting disease?

Can healthy eating actually lower health care costs?

Can healthy eating truly prolong one's life?

Can we identify the components of nutritional foods that make them work effectively?

What is an antioxidant? a carcinogen? a free radical? a triglyceride?

She then went in search of answers and built a body of notes. One question might lead to others, and an answer to a question, "Are nutritional foods new?" might produce a topic statement for a paragraph:

Although medical professionals are just beginning to open their minds and eyes to the medicinal power of food, others have known about food's healthful properties for centuries.

### Setting Goals by Using Organizational Patterns

Try to anticipate the kinds of development, or organizational patterns, you will need to build effective paragraphs and to explore your topic fully. Then base your notes on the modes of development: *definition, comparison and contrast, process, illustration, cause and effect, classification, analysis, and description*. Here's a list by one student who studied the issues of organ and tissue donation:

Define tissue donation.

Contrast myths, religious views, and ethical considerations.

Illustrate organ and tissue donation with several examples.

Use statistics and scientific data.

Search out causes for a person's reluctance to sign a donor card.



Determine the consequences of donation with a focus on saving the lives of children.

Read and use a case study on a child's death and organ donation by the public.

Explore the step-by-step stages of the process of organ donation.

Classify the types and analyze the problem.

Give narrative examples of several people whose lives were saved.

With this list in hand, a writer can search for material to develop as *contrast*, *process*, *definition*, and so forth.

One student recorded this note that describes the subject:

Organ and tissue donation is the gift of life. Each year, many people confront health problems due to diseases or congenital birth defects. Organ transplants give these people the chance to live a somewhat normal life. Organs that can be successfully transplanted include the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and pancreas (Barnill 1). Tissues that can be transplanted successfully include bone, corneas, skin, heart valves, veins, cartilage, and other connective tissues (Taddonio 1).

### Using Approaches across the Curriculum to Chart Your Ideas

Each scholarly field gives a special insight into any given topic. Suppose, for example, that you want to examine an event from U.S. history, such as the Battle of Little Bighorn. Different academic disciplines will help you approach the topic in different ways.

**Political Science:** Was Custer too hasty in his quest for political glory?

**Economics:** Did the government want to open the western lands for development that would enrich the nation?

**Military Science:** Was Custer's military strategy flawed?

**Psychology:** Did General Custer's ego precipitate the massacre?

**Geography:** Why did Custer stage a battle at this site?

These approaches can also produce valuable notes as the student searches out answers in the literature, as shown in this example:

The year 1876 stands as a monument to the western policies of Congress and the president, but Sitting Bull and Custer seized their share of glory. Custer's egotism and political ambitions overpowered his military savvy (Lemming 6). Also, Sitting Bull's military tactics (he told his braves to kill rather than show off their bravery) proved devastating for Custer and his troops, who no longer had easy shots at "prancing, dancing Indians" (Potter 65).



## Using Your Thesis to Chart the Direction of Your Research

Often, the thesis statement sets the direction of the paper's development.

### Arrangement by Issues

The thesis statement might force the writer to address various issues and positions.

**Thesis:** Misunderstandings about organ donation distort reality and set serious limits on the availability of those persons who need an eye, a liver, or a healthy heart.

**Issue 1.** Many myths mislead people into believing that donation is unethical.

**Issue 2.** Some fear that as a patient they might be terminated early for their body parts.

**Issue 3.** Religious views sometimes get in the way of donation.

The outline above, though brief, gives this writer three categories that require detailed research in support of the thesis. The notetaking can be focused on these three issues.

### Arrangement by Cause/Effect

In other cases, the thesis statement suggests development by cause/effect issues. Notice that the next writer's thesis on television's educational values points the way to four very different areas worthy of investigation.

**Thesis:** Television can have positive effects on a child's language development.

**Consequence 1.** Television introduces new words.

**Consequence 2.** Television reinforces word usage and proper syntax.

**Consequence 3.** Literary classics come alive verbally on television.

**Consequence 4.** Television provides the subtle rhythms and musical effects of accomplished speakers.

This outline can help the writer produce a full discussion on television viewing.

## CHECKLIST

### *Evaluating Your Overall Plan*

1. What is my thesis? Will my notes and records defend and illustrate my proposition? Is the evidence convincing?
2. Have I found the best plan for developing the thesis with elements of argument, evaluation, cause/effect, or comparison?
3. Should I use a combination of elements—that is, do I need to evaluate the subject, examine the causes and consequences, and then set out the argument?



## Arrangement by Interpretation and Evaluation

Evaluation will evolve from thesis statements that judge a subject by a set of criteria, such as your analysis of a poem, movie, or museum display. Notice how the next student's thesis statement requires an interpretation of Hamlet's character.

**Thesis:** Shakespeare manipulates the stage settings for Hamlet's soliloquies to uncover his unstable nature and forecast his failure.

1. His soul is dark because of his mother's incest.
2. He appears impotent in comparison with the actor.
3. He is drawn by the magnetism of death.
4. He realizes he cannot perform cruel, unnatural acts.
5. He stands ashamed by his inactivity in comparison.

## Arrangement by Comparison

Sometimes a thesis statement stipulates a comparison on the value of two sides of an issue, as shown in one student's preliminary outline:

**Thesis:** Discipline often involves punishment, but child abuse adds another element: the gratification of the adult.

**Comparison 1.** A spanking has the interest of the child at heart but a beating or a caning has no redeeming value.

**Comparison 2.** Time-outs remind the child that relationships are important and to be cherished, but lockouts in a closet only promote hysteria and fear.

**Comparison 3.** The parent's ego and selfish interests often take precedence over the welfare of the child or children.

## YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT

1. Using the organizational guidelines explained in this chapter, make a list, to explore your topic in depth. Based on the items in the list, use the modes of development to construct paragraphs that analyze the topic in detail. You will find the list to be helpful in searching for material for your research.
2. Determine how your paper will develop based on your thesis statement. Conduct detailed research on issues and positions to support your thesis. Take notes on the relevant issues. Make sure that the points you choose to defend and illustrate your proposition are convincing.
3. Based on the development patterns, arrange your evidence and arguments based on (a) interpretation and evaluation, (b) comparison, or (c) a combination of both.



Evaluate your overall progress till now. Are you satisfied with your thesis? Have you covered your research topic from multiple scholarly angles? Have you decided how you will proceed?

◀ Preliminary Activity for Week 3

Jump to...



Analysis, Application, and Exploration for Week 3 ▶



## Navigation

Home

 Dashboard

Site pages

My courses

121 - CC106

121 - BPM101 / DM103

121 - OAELEC2

121 - ITE3

Participants

 Grades

General


01 Introduction to Academic Writing

02 Topic Selection

03 Organizing Ideas and Setting Goals

 Preliminary Activity for Week 3

 **Lesson Proper for Week 3**

 Analysis, Application, and Exploration for Week 3

 Generalization for Week 3

 Evaluation for Week 3

 Assignment for Week 3

04 Finding Web-Based Resources

05 Finding Web-Based Resources (Cont.)

06 - Preliminary Examination

07 Library Resources

08 Library Resources (Cont.)

09 Plagiarism and How to Avoid It

10 Reading and Evaluating Sources

11 Developing Outline and Writing Effective Notes

12 - Midterm Examination

13 Developing Outline and Writing Effective Notes...

14 Drafting the Paper in an Academic Style

15 MLA Syle In-Text Reference

16 MLA Syle In-Text Reference (Cont.)





---

## Fair Warning

**NOTICE:** Please be reminded that it has come to the attention of the Publishing Team of eLearning Commons that learning materials published and intended for ***free use only by students and faculty members within the eLearning Commons network were UNLAWFULLY uploaded in other sites without due and proper permission.***

**PROSECUTION:** Under Philippine law (Republic Act No. 8293), copyright infringement is punishable by the following: Imprisonment of between 1 to 3 years and a fine of between 50,000 to 150,000 pesos for the first offense. Imprisonment of 3 years and 1 day to six years plus a fine of between 150,000 to 500,000 pesos for the second offense.

**COURSE OF ACTION:** Whoever has maliciously uploaded these concerned materials are hereby given an ultimatum to take it down within 24-hours. Beyond the 24-hour grace period, our Legal Department shall initiate the proceedings in coordination with the National Bureau of Investigation for IP Address tracking, account owner identification, and filing of cases for prosecution.

---

## 2nd Semester Enrollment



A banner for Bestlink College of the Philippines (BCP) featuring a blue-tinted image of a modern building. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top right, it says "visit www.bcp.edu.ph". The main headline in large red letters reads "Enrollment registration is now Ongoing". Below this, in white text on a blue background, it says "For 2nd Semester SY 2021 - 2022". Underneath that, in white text on a dark blue background, it says "We are accepting new students, returnees and transferees." On the right side, there is a quote: "Be trained to be the best, Be linked to success" next to the BCP logo. At the bottom left, there is an email icon and the address "bcp-inquire@bcp.edu.ph". At the bottom right, there is a phone icon and the numbers "(8)442-8601 | (8)518-8050".

visit [www.bcp.edu.ph](http://www.bcp.edu.ph)

# Enrollment registration is now Ongoing

**For 2nd Semester SY 2021 - 2022**

We are accepting new students, returnees and transferees.





"Be trained to be the best,  
Be linked to success"



 [bcp-inquire@bcp.edu.ph](mailto:bcp-inquire@bcp.edu.ph)

 (8)442-8601 | (8)518-8050

## Activities

-  Assignments
-  Forums
-  Quizzes
-  Resources

Bestlink College of the Philippines  
College Department

Powered by [eLearning Commons](#)

