

EXERCISE 2: ORGANIZING YOUR IDEAS

Quick Fact Chart	
Overview	Students organize ideas about a topic, prepare an outline for an essay on the topic, and discuss their outlines.
Academic Skills	Organizing ideas Expressing an opinion
TOEFL Skill	Independent writing task
Time	10–20 minutes
Answer Key	Use ideas 1, 3, and 4. Delete ideas 2, 5, and 6.
Related Pages in Textbook	Organizing Your Ideas, pages 123–26
Extension Activities	<p>1. Teacher will give the class a writing prompt. You may choose from this list or create your own:</p> <p>Prompt Agree or disagree with this saying: <i>Too much study makes John a dull boy.</i></p> <p>Prompt Agree or disagree with this statement: <i>Preventive medicine is the only kind that really works.</i></p> <p><i>In smaller university classes, classmates are often considered part of a support group. As such, classmates often grow to trust and help each other with the course. In larger classes, classmates may be people who attend the same course but who are more neutral. As such, they may greet each other politely, but they do not pursue much more connection. In fact, they might even see each other as competition. Which type of classmate relationship do you prefer and why?</i></p> <p><i>Would you prefer a high-paid job that you didn't really enjoy, or a personally satisfying career that just paid for your life necessities?</i></p> <p>2. Each student prepares a list of eight ideas—some that work with the prompt and some that do not. After preparing their lists, students work in pairs. They exchange their lists with their partners. The partner reviews the list of ideas, deciding which fit and which do not, then orders the ideas in a rough outline.</p> <p>3. Each classmate returns paper to the original author who can see how close the classmate came to following the list that the original author intended. Students discuss their ideas.</p>

1. The teacher will write a prompt and list of ideas on the board.

Prompt *Agree or disagree with this statement: The protection of our environmental resources should be prioritized over economic development.*

Ideas

1. A pristine environment can attract tourists who will contribute to the economy.
 2. Money is more important than wildlife.
 3. Once the environment is damaged, it is difficult or impossible to clean up.
 4. The environment's condition affects the health of the people living nearby and of the planet.
 5. People can't survive without jobs and money.
 6. The condition of the environment is an irrelevant concern.
2. Using the list, and/or using ideas of their own, students will prepare a rough outline for an essay. Some ideas will be used, and some will be deleted.
 3. Working in pairs, students will read and discuss each other's outlines. Students will answer the following questions for each other.
 - a. Do the ideas that are grouped together fit together?
 - b. What do the ideas that are grouped together have in common?
 - c. Does the order of information make sense?
 - d. What are some additional points that could be added?
 - e. What was challenging about the ordering activity?