

Organizing Ideas When Writing About Your Cultural Heritage

Once you have brainstormed ideas for your paper and chosen the topics you want to write about, you need to decide how to organize your paper. One topic should lead to the next. This will be easy if you've chosen topics that go naturally together. For example, if you choose to write about your culture's music, paintings, and dance, these all relate to the arts, so it will be easier to move smoothly from one topic to the next.



But what if you chose the topics holidays, food, and folk tales? How do you connect these? You need to find things they have in common, and to do that you need to brainstorm. Write down everything you can think of about all three, then look for commonalities. For example, you may find that some of the foods you want to write about are only served for certain holidays. Or maybe there is a very important folk tale that involves one of the holidays you want to talk about. Or perhaps a central food to your culture is present in one of the folk tales. Even if you think at first that your topics have nothing in common, with a bit of work you might find common ground you hadn't thought about. To lead smoothly from one topic to the next, you only need one common point to connect them.

Also remember that if you have three or more topics, the first and last don't need to have anything in common. You just need something to move you smoothly from topic 1 to topic 2, then topic 2 to topic 3, and so on. Once you find those connections between certain topics, that can help you organize your paper.

Your turn! Brainstorm on your chosen topics to find common ground. Write those commonalities here, then decide how to order the topics in your paper.

Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4

Commonalities:

Topic 1 to Topic 2

Topic 2 to Topic 3

Topic 3 to Topic 4

Order for my paper:

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Topic 4
