

## Write Trait Lesson - April 20th Organization

Just like when we're following our favourite chocolate chip cookie recipe or even watching an adventure movie, the order matters! If we didn't follow our recipe in the proper order, our cookies are more than likely going to be a dud. Similarly, if a movie's scenes were shuffled out of order, you'd be left wondering what in the world was going on!

Whenever we are writing, we have to keep these same principles in mind. The order of our writing matters! We can think of our writing having a "map" that keeps the reader on track.

### **Example: The Greedy Triangle**

*The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns is an amusing math story about a triangle who begins to wish for more in life - more sides... more angles. As the triangle becomes too greedy, though, its life becomes more complicated. Read this passage. You'll notice the author's "map" has been changed a little. Is the map hard to follow? See whether you can follow along.

*Poof! The shapeshifter turned the triangle into a quadrilateral.*

*"I think if I had one more side and one more angle," said the triangle, "my life would be more interesting."*

*"How may I help you?" asked the shapeshifter.*

*So the triangle went to see the local shapeshifter.*

*"I'm tired of doing the same old things," it grumbled. "There must be more to life."*

*One day, the triangle began to feel dissatisfied.*

*"That's easy to do," said the shapeshifter.*

Were you able to follow the “map”? Does it make any sense at all? Write your response here.

\_\_\_\_\_ It makes NO sense! I am lost!

\_\_\_\_\_ I get the main idea, but that’s about it.

\_\_\_\_\_ This is very easy to follow!

Now read the original passage by Marilyn Burns. Is it an improvement over the version you just read?

*One day, the triangle began to feel dissatisfied. “I’m tired of doing the same old things,” it grumbled. “There must be more to life.” So the triangle went to see the local shapeshifter.*

*“How may I help you?” The shapeshifter asked the triangle.*

*“I think if I had just one more side and one more angle,” said the triangle, “my life would be more interesting.”*

*“That’s easy to do,” said the shapeshifter. Poof! The shapeshifter turned the triangle into a quadrilateral.*

Did you see or hear a difference between the first version and the second one? Which was easier to follow? Write your thoughts here (or discuss):

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## The Great Cool-Off

The map for the following story is definitely jumbled. Read the passage once to get a feeling for what it is about. Then read it again carefully to see whether you can fix it by putting the eight sentences in order. Put a small number **1** next to the sentence you think should go first, a number **2** before the sentence you think would go second, and so on. Put a number before each sentence, then re-write the passage in your new order.

\_\_\_ The pool at Carl's house has a small water slide in the deep end. \_\_\_ Cameron has a big front lawn, perfect for water fights. \_\_\_ Later in the afternoon, when it got really hot, we could hike into the woods to our fort. \_\_\_ With a plan like this, we were ready to beat the heat. \_\_\_ Around the middle of the day, we could head to Carl's apartment for a swim. \_\_\_ There's so much shade around the fort that it never gets too hot. \_\_\_ I thought we could start the day with a water fight over at Cameron's house. \_\_\_ It was supposed to be 30 degrees out, so we would need a great plan to keep ourselves from melting.