Digital Design Connections

Analyze how digital design makes relationships between ideas clear.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.6 "Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each heading. Circle each digital feature that helps readers connect information, then draw an arrow from the feature to the information it clarifies or supports.

Maya Builds an Online Exhibit

1. When Maya's history class created a digital exhibit about the Great Migration, she did not place every fact on one crowded page. She opened with a short overview: From about 1916 to 1970, millions of African Americans moved from the South to cities in the North, Midwest, and West. Then she made separate sections called Reasons for Moving, New Communities, and Lasting Effects. The headings helped visitors see how each group of facts connected to the exhibit's main idea.

2. To show the movement, Maya inserted a map with arrows from southern states toward cities such as Chicago and Detroit. A caption explained that the arrows showed routes of migration, not exact paths for every person. Next, she placed a photograph of Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood beside a paragraph about new communities. This layout connected the map's broad pattern to one city's experience. She added links to Library of Congress sources so readers could check the evidence.

3. Before publishing, Maya asked two classmates to test the exhibit on a tablet. One reader could not tell whether a photograph showed a factory job or a family home. Maya revised the caption to identify a worker leaving a Chicago meatpacking plant. She also added alternative text so a screen reader could describe the image. Finally, she shared the exhibit's web address with her class and checked that each link opened correctly. Testing and revising made the published information clearer and easier to use.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do Maya's three section headings help visitors understand the exhibit?

2. How does placing the Bronzeville photograph beside the paragraph about new communities make an idea clearer?

3. What possible misunderstanding does Maya's map caption prevent?

4. Name two ways Maya tested or revised the exhibit before publishing it. How did those actions help readers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use an online document to draft and publish a 90 to 120 word information page for a class website about a topic you have researched. Include a title, two headings, a labeled visual caption, and a source link label, then explain how the visual and source connect to your information.

ANSWER KEY

Digital Design Connections

GRADE 7 · WHST.6-8.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each heading. Circle each digital feature that helps readers connect information, then draw an arrow from the feature to the information it clarifies or supports. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do Maya's three section headings help visitors understand the exhibit?	**They organize facts into reasons for moving, new communities, and lasting effects, showing how each group connects to the main idea.**
2	How does placing the Bronzeville photograph beside the paragraph about new communities make an idea clearer?	**It connects the map's broad pattern of migration to one city's experience.**
3	What possible misunderstanding does Maya's map caption prevent?	**It prevents readers from thinking the arrows show the exact path taken by every person.**
4	Name two ways Maya tested or revised the exhibit before publishing it. How did those actions help readers?	**She tested it with classmates, revised a vague photo caption, added alternative text, and checked links. These actions made the information clearer and easier to use.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

How Beavers Shape Wetlands Building a Dam Beavers place branches, mud, and stones across flowing water. The dam slows the water, so a pond can form behind it. Why the Pond Matters The pond gives beavers a safer place to build a lodge and can create wetland habitat for frogs, fish, and birds. [Photo caption: A beaver dam holds back water, creating a pond.] Learn More: National Park Service, "Beavers." The photo supports the first section, while the source link gives readers evidence about the pond's effects. I would publish this page in our class website with the caption beside the photo.

Accept equivalent explanations that identify how headings, captions, layout, links, testing, or alternative text make relationships between information clearer. For the open task, accept a 90 to 120 word digital page with all required elements and a clear explanation of how the visual and source support the information.