Order Makes Meaning

Hear how a speaker's order shapes point of view, purpose, and effectiveness.

7.LL.19 "Evaluate a speaker's organizational choices to determine point of view, purpose, and effectiveness."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OPINION FIRST

The speaker states an opinion, then gives a reason. This order makes the speaker's point of view clear right away.

Museums should display more fossils. Visitors could learn about ancient life.

REASON FIRST

The speaker gives a fact or reason, then states an opinion. This order lets listeners consider the evidence before hearing the point of view.

Bright billboards hide the stars at night. Local stores should dim their signs.

1 SORT

8 items

Cover the speech text in each row. A partner reads that row aloud from another copy; listen, then circle CLAIM or EVIDENCE. Ask for a repeat if needed, and uncover the text only after responding.

1.	Our library should stay open after school. Students need a quiet place to study.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
2.	The cafeteria should offer fruit at lunch. Fresh choices help students eat well.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
3.	Many students wait outside during heavy rain. Our school should add a covered entrance.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
4.	Classrooms should have more plants. They can make rooms feel welcoming.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
5.	The morning announcements often interrupt reading time. They should be shorter.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
6.	Plastic forks fill our trash cans after lunch. The cafeteria should use reusable utensils.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
7.	The school should repair the cracked steps near the stage. Someone could trip on them.	CLAIM EVIDENCE
8.	The debate club should meet twice a week. Extra meetings would give members more time to prepare.	CLAIM EVIDENCE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose two speeches you heard, one from each category. Explain how each opening revealed the speaker's point of view and helped or weakened the purpose of persuading listeners.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new two-sentence speeches on different topics, one opinion-first and one reason-first. Deliver both aloud to a partner, then listen to the partner explain which order was more effective and why.

CLAIM _____

EVIDENCE _____

CHALLENGE

After hearing one partner speech, write two sentences: identify its point of view and purpose, then evaluate how its order affected your response as a listener.

ANSWER KEY

Order Makes Meaning

GRADE 7 · 7.LL.19

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Our library should stay open after school. Students need a quiet place to study.	**CLAIM**	The opinion about library hours comes before the reason.
2	The cafeteria should offer fruit at lunch. Fresh choices help students eat well.	**CLAIM**	The opinion about lunch comes before the reason.
3	Many students wait outside during heavy rain. Our school should add a covered entrance.	**EVIDENCE**	The problem comes before the opinion about the entrance.
4	Classrooms should have more plants. They can make rooms feel welcoming.	**CLAIM**	The opinion about plants comes before the reason.
5	The morning announcements often interrupt reading time. They should be shorter.	**EVIDENCE**	The reason comes before the opinion about announcements.
6	Plastic forks fill our trash cans after lunch. The cafeteria should use reusable utensils.	**EVIDENCE**	The problem comes before the opinion about utensils.
7	The school should repair the cracked steps near the stage. Someone could trip on them.	**CLAIM**	The opinion about repairs comes before the reason.
8	The debate club should meet twice a week. Extra meetings would give members more time to prepare.	**CLAIM**	The opinion about meetings comes before the reason.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose two speeches you heard, one from each category. Explain how each opening revealed the speaker's point of view and helped or weakened the purpose of persuading listeners.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLAIM**: The zoo should build a larger turtle habitat. More space would let the turtles roam.
- **EVIDENCE**: Wet shoes make the hallway floor slippery. Our school should put a mat by the door.

Challenge: For an opinion-first speech asking for a larger turtle habitat: the speaker wants the zoo to enlarge the habitat so turtles have more room. Stating the proposal first made the position easy to follow, though a listener could reasonably prefer hearing the space problem first.

Require the oral delivery before classification and evaluation; text-only completion is not listening evidence. Accept supported effectiveness judgments rather than a single preferred order, and check that both created speeches are actually delivered.