

Lesson 3: Selecting Main Ideas for a Report



Key Learning Concept: A well-constructed report outline organizes major sections using **ROMAN NUMERALS (I, II, III, IV)**. Each Roman numeral represents a distinct **MAIN IDEA** that supports the overall report title.

DIRECTIONS

Read ALL items first. A title is given for each report. From the list below choose the **four main ideas** for each report. Then write the four main ideas for each report opposite the Roman numerals. Cross off each word as you use it.

WORD BANK (20 ITEMS)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ Columbus | ☐ Christmas | ☐ Balboa | ☐ Summer |
| ☐ La Salle | ☐ Washington | ☐ Spring | ☐ Baseball |
| ☐ Henry Hudson | ☐ July Fourth | ☐ Lincoln | ☐ Football |
| ☐ New Year's Day | ☐ Truman | ☐ Fall | ☐ Kennedy |
| ☐ Thanksgiving | ☐ Swimming | ☐ Winter | ☐ Hockey |



"Match 4 ideas to each report!"

Sports**REPORT 1**

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____

Early Explorers**REPORT 2**

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____

Presidents**REPORT 3**

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____

Seasons**REPORT 4**

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____

Holidays**REPORT 5**

- I. _____
- II. _____
- III. _____
- IV. _____

COMPLETE REPORT OUTLINE SOLUTIONS (20 PTS TOTAL - 4 PTS PER REPORT)

Sports

- I. Baseball
- II. Football
- III. Hockey
- IV. Swimming

Early Explorers

- I. Balboa
- II. Columbus
- III. Henry Hudson
- IV. La Salle

Presidents

- I. Kennedy
- II. Lincoln
- III. Truman
- IV. Washington

Seasons

- I. Fall
- II. Spring
- III. Summer
- IV. Winter

Holidays

- I. Christmas
- II. July Fourth
- III. New Year's Day
- IV. Thanksgiving

Pedagogical Note on Sequence: Accept any internal order for Roman numerals I–IV (alphabetical, chronological, or seasonal) as long as all 4 required main ideas belong to that report title.

 MACROSTRUCTURE & REPORT PLANNING**From Categories to Paragraph Outlines:**

- **Hierarchical Anchor:** The report title acts as the global thesis. Roman numerals (I, II, III, IV) represent the coordinate sections (future body paragraphs).
- **Symmetry & Balance:** Teaching students that an effective informational report divides its topic into parallel, well-balanced sections of equal conceptual weight.

 DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION STRATEGIES**Tier 1 / Tier 2 Scaffolding (Struggling Learners & ELs):**

- **Historical Context Cards:** Introduce students to historical explorers (Balboa, La Salle, Hudson) and US Presidents (Truman, Kennedy, Lincoln, Washington) using brief biographical flashcards.
- **Color-Coding:** Have students assign a color dot to each of the 5 report themes before writing.

Tier 3 / Extension (Gifted & Advanced):

- Challenge students to arrange *Presidents* and *Early Explorers* in strict chronological order of their historical eras.

 DIAGNOSTIC GUIDE: COMMON STUDENT MISCONCEPTIONS & INTERVENTION PROMPTS

Common Misconception	Underlying Cognitive Trap	Teacher Intervention Prompt
Confusing Historical Explorers with Presidents	Associating historic names (e.g. Washington vs. Hudson or Balboa) without recognizing political vs. maritime roles.	"Did Balboa lead the United States government as President, or did he sail ships across the ocean as an explorer?"
Placing "Swimming" under Seasons instead of Sports	Associating swimming strictly with summer weather rather than recognizing it as an athletic sport.	"While swimming is fun in summer, what physical activity or Olympic event do we call it? It belongs under Sports!"
Overlooking Multi-Word Titles (e.g. "New Year's Day", "July Fourth")	Looking only for single-word nouns and getting confused by compound calendar events.	"Notice that holidays often have multiple words like 'July Fourth' or 'New Year's Day'. Both are national celebrations!"

 STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT & SCORING RUBRIC (TOTAL: 20 POINTS)

Criteria	Performance Description	Scoring Guide	Max Pts
Sports Report Outlining	Correctly places Baseball, Football, Hockey, Swimming under Sports opposite I–IV.	1 point per correctly identified sport (4 items)	4 pts
Explorers Report Outlining	Correctly places Balboa, Columbus, Henry Hudson, La Salle under Early Explorers.	1 point per correctly identified explorer (4 items)	4 pts
Presidents Report Outlining	Correctly places Kennedy, Lincoln, Truman, Washington under Presidents.	1 point per correctly identified president (4 items)	4 pts
Seasons Report Outlining	Correctly places Fall, Spring, Summer, Winter under Seasons.	1 point per correctly identified season (4 items)	4 pts
Holidays Report Outlining	Correctly places Christmas, July Fourth, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving under Holidays.	1 point per correctly identified holiday (4 items)	4 pts