

Overarching Question: What is my story?

Overarching Challenge: Use the format of your choice to effectively tell your story.

Lesson Question: What is the best format for a message?

Lesson Challenge: Select the best way to communicate a message.

Lesson Summary: If you had something that you really wanted to tell someone, what would be the best format or way to send your message? Would you use an IM, a letter, or have a conversation? How do you decide which format to use? In this lesson, you will practice selecting the best way to communicate a message.

Big Idea: Selecting the best format for a message can help you more effectively tell your story.



Lesson Question: What is the best format for a message?

Lesson Challenge: Select the best way to communicate a message.

Start Your Thinking

If you had something that you really wanted to tell someone, what would be the best format or way to send your message? Would you use an IM, a letter, or have a conversation? How do you decide which format to use?

Think about these two messages. Which would be the best format or way to send each message?

Message A	Message B
You've heard that there's a really bad winter storm approaching your community. You need to warn people so they can stay safe, but the community radio station isn't working.	You'd like other students at your school to know more about your community. You'd like to describe the people, the land, and some of the stories that make it such a special place.
<p>The <i>worst</i> way to send this message would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> poster <input type="checkbox"/> text message <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/> social media post <input type="checkbox"/> conversation <input type="checkbox"/> other 	<p>The <i>worst</i> way to send this message would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> poster <input type="checkbox"/> text message <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/> social media post <input type="checkbox"/> conversation <input type="checkbox"/> other
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Lesson Question: What is the best format for a message?**Think About the Lesson Challenge**

In this lesson, you will learn a strategy to help you decide which format is best for communicating your ideas, messages, and stories. Before moving on to the next part of the lesson, pause and think again about Messages A and B. What did you think about when making your decisions about the worst way and best way to send each message?



What I Thought About as I Made My Decisions	
Message A	Message B

Grow Your Thinking

In the next part of the lesson, you will learn how to decide what format is best for your ideas, messages, and stories.

Carefully read the messages below and decide which format of communication would be best for each message.

Message A: Climate change could have many impacts on northern communities.	Message B: Climate change could have many impacts on northern communities.
Audience: Students in grade 9	Audience: People that don't live in northern communities
Purpose: To describe the impacts of climate change on northern communities.	Purpose: To describe the impacts of climate change on northern communities.
The best format for message A would be:	The best format for message B would be:
<p>Possible formats</p> <p>phone call poster a social media post an oral story</p> <p>a carving text message in-person conversation a poem a handwritten letter</p>	

Message C: The eagle rules the sky	Message D: The eagle rules the sky
Audience: People who have never seen an eagle	Audience: People who have never seen an eagle
Purpose: To describe the beauty of an eagle soaring in the sky.	Purpose: To describe the science behind how an eagle flies
The best format for message C would be:	The best format for message D would be:
<p>Possible formats</p> <p>phone call poster a social media post an oral story</p> <p>a carving text message in-person conversation a poem a handwritten letter</p>	

Lesson Question: What is the best format for a message?

How did you decide which format would be the best for each message? To help you think about how you made your choices, look carefully at the similarities and differences between the messages.



How are messages A and B the same?	How are messages A and B different?
How are messages C and D the same?	How are messages C and D different?



What do you notice when you compare the messages? How did the similarities and differences influence your choice of the best format for each message?

BUILDING MY TOOLBOX

The method or format that we use to communicate depends on the purpose of the message and who the message is for. Your thinking about which format would best for your message can be guided by two criteria:

- ✓ **Appropriate:** The format of the message should be suitable for the intended audience. The format should clearly communicate the meaning of the message. For example, using a handwritten letter probably wouldn't be the best format for teaching a young child how to tie their shoes. Questions to ask include:
 - Does the format of my message match the abilities of the audience?
 - Which format would my audience find the most interesting?
- ✓ **Functional:** The format should match the purpose of the message. For example, if the purpose of a message is to warn a community about an approaching storm, a poster probably wouldn't be the best choice of format. Questions to ask include:
 - Does the message need to be sent and received quickly?
 - Which format best matches the amount of detail in message?
 - Which format best matches the tone of my message?

Practise the Thinking

Practise using the criteria to decide which format would be the best for each message. If the format of a message doesn't meet the criteria, please suggest one that does. An example has been done for you.



The Audience	The Message and Purpose	The Format	Does the format meet the criteria?
University students	To convince students to not drink and drive	A poster	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> functional <p>My thinking: A poster might be appropriate for university students, but it might not be seen by many people. Perhaps a Twitter post would be quicker and be seen by more people.</p>
Your teacher	To let the teacher know you are going to be late for school	A handwritten letter	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional <p>My thinking:</p>
A business owner	To ask questions about a job that you're interested in	An in-person conversation	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional <p>My thinking:</p>
Grandparents	To say thank you for something they taught you	A text message	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional <p>My thinking:</p>
<p>Possible formats</p> <p>phone call poster a social media post an oral story</p> <p>a carving text message in-person conversation a poem a handwritten letter</p>			

Check Your Progress



Has this thinking strategy helped you find the best format for a message?

I can use the criteria to select the best format for a message.



I understand why the format of a message needs to match the audience.



I understand why the format needs to match the purpose of the message.



If you're still working on how to identify the best format for a message, maybe re-read the criteria or check in with a teacher.

Lesson Question: What is the best format for a message?**Practise the Strategy**

You can use this strategy to help you decide which format would be the best for a message that you want to send.

Imagine that you've had a disagreement with a friend, and that you want to apologize for some unkind comments that you made. What would be the best way to send your message? Try using this strategy to think of formats that you could use to send your message. Remember to use the criteria to guide your thinking!



My message: I am sorry for my unkind comments		
The purpose of my message: To apologize		
The audience for my message: My friend		
Possible Formats for My Message	Does the format meet the criteria?	Explaining My Thinking
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional	
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional	
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional	
Possible formats phone call poster a social media post an oral story a carving text message in-person conversation a poem a handwritten letter		
The best format for my message is: The reasons that support my decision are:		
The criteria for deciding what format would be best for a message: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate: Does the format suit the audience? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Functional: Does the format match the purpose of the message?		

Lesson Question: What is the best format for a message?

You can also use this strategy in any situation where you want to decide which format would be best for a message.



My message:		
The purpose of my message:		
The audience for my message:		
Possible Formats for My Message	Does the format meet the criteria?	Explaining My Thinking
1.	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional	
2.	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional	
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> functional	
Possible formats phone call poster a social media post an oral story a carving text message in-person conversation a poem a handwritten letter		
The best format for my message is: The reasons that support my decision are: 		
The criteria for deciding what format would be best for a message: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate: Does the format suit the audience? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Functional: Does the format match the purpose of the message?		



Reflect on Your Thinking

Think About the Lesson Challenge

Think back to the two messages from the beginning of the lesson. Which would be the best format or way to send each message? Remember to use the criteria to guide your thinking!



Message A

You've heard that there's a really bad winter storm approaching your community. You need to warn people so they can stay safe, but the community radio station isn't working.

The best way to send this message would be:

Message B

You'd like other students at your school to know more about your community and what makes it such a special place. What's the best format or way to send this message?

The best way to send this message would be:

Think About the Overarching Challenge

Remember our overarching question: What is my story? After you've finished the English lessons, you'll select the format of your choice to tell your story.



How might the tools in this lesson help me tell my story?

