
Active Participation Foundations

Organizing Thoughts with PREP — Speakers who come off as the most logical and persuasive tend to start out by stating an opinion. They support this opinion with reasons (usually two or three) and examples. They use clear signaling and transitions. Finally, they complete their argument with a quick summary and/or recommendation.

Use PREP (Point, Reason, Example, Point) to help you organize your thoughts.

<p>Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I agree with this plan. • I think this will work. • I strongly believe in Ms. Tanaka’s ability. • As far as I understand it, this is good. • The research suggests that this will succeed. • In my experience, plans like this often fail 	<p>Reason</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have two reasons. • There are three points I would like to make. • First, second, third, to begin with • Moreover, furthermore, equally important
<p>Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For example, ... • For instance, ... • This is because ... 	<p>Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In summary, I agree with this proposal. Given these points, I think it’s clear that this plan will succeed. • In short, for ‘reason A’ and ‘reason B’ I agree with this plan.

Example – Is now a good time to invest in real estate in Tokyo?

I really don’t think it is a good time to invest in real estate in Tokyo **for two reasons**. **To begin with**, there are too many empty apartments buildings in Tokyo. **For example**, 80,000 condos were built last year, but only 40,000 were sold. **As a result**, many building owners cannot pay back their bank loans. **Furthermore**, Japan’s shrinking population is causing construction costs to rise. **That is to say** that there are fewer workers in the industry, so labor costs are higher, and it takes more time to complete projects. **Given these points**, now is not the time to invest in real estate in Tokyo.

Exercise — You will be asked for your opinions on your favorite things, popular culture (TV shows, movies or music) or current events. Use the PREP structure worksheet on the following page to write your answer.

Point:

**Reason /
Example:**

**Reason /
Example:**

Point:

Exercise — Give and respond to opinions on the following topics. Person A will give an opinion, and Person B will agree or disagree.

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| 1. Starbucks coffee | 7. Covid-19 Testing | 13. PM Suga |
| 2. Donald Trump | 8. Social media | 14. Tattoos |
| 3. Smoking | 9. Lonely deaths | 15. Carlos Ghosn |
| 4. Premium Friday | 10. The US / China Trade War | 16. Vaccinations |
| 5. The Tokyo Olympics | 11. Baseball | 17. Brexit |
| 6. Abenomasks | 12. Coming-of-Age Day | 18. Kim Jong-un |