Mapping Out an Organization

Students should map out an organization of their letter using the 4 Square Note-Catcher or the model letters we explored at the beginning of the unit.

\*It may be a good idea to try more than one way to organize your letter and then select the one that feels like the best match for what and how you want to explain your issue.

A. Organizing with The Note-Catcher:

If students have already used the 4 square note-catcher, they already have a built in organizational structure. Because each box already focuses on a topic and contains source information, each box can become a body paragraph. For example, a student might use the boxes to map out this structure:

* Introduction (with claim)
* Background on the issue
* Causes of the issue
* Effects: who and how
* Varying perspectives (counter claims)
* What can be done
* Conclusion

B. Organizing with the Models:

Earlier in this unit, students analyzed model letters. Returning to these models, students should review the organizational structure of the models as possible outlines for their own letters. For example, a sample outline for the essay-letter “Run, Forest, Run” might be:

* Introduction to problem and context
* Examples – personal and specific
* Explain issue
* Causes
* Call to action