



URL: www.readwritethink.org/materials/timeline/

Help children plan a story or prepare for a special event, or let teens review memories and stories from the past. The Timeline tool allows them to create and organize events—real and imagined—that automatically become active links, letting users navigate easily among events on the Timeline.

Here's What to Do

Discuss with children and teens how they might use the timeline: to help write a story, plan an event, recall past memories, and so forth. Then move to the interactive tool and help them choose the best way to organize the timeline, either by years, time of day, significant events, or some other unit of measure.

Children and teens are then prompted to label and title each entry (for example: Step One—Send out invitations) as well as type a description of it (for example: Mom has guest list and addresses in drawer by the phone). They then add entries that are arranged in order on the timeline. The entries become clickable links that can be reviewed and edited in any order before printing as horizontal or vertical timelines. See a [sample horizontal Timeline](#) for a student autobiography.

More Ideas to Try

- Looking to build skills or create new habits? Help children or teens make and manage a focused schedule of activities for a week.
- After reading a book or story, review the events by helping children put them in order. Encourage them to record their reactions to enhance the review.
- Before a big event such as a family gathering or vacation, help children or teens plan what steps need to be taken to get ready. Ask them to keep track of the steps as they are accomplished.

*This tool uses the free Flash browser plug-in (version 8 or later), which can be downloaded from the ReadWriteThink.org Site Tools page: http://www.readwritethink.org/site_tools.html.

To view this tip sheet online, go to www.readwritethink.org/materials/timeline/timeline.pdf

Intended for: Grades 6–12
Ages 11–18

Technical requirements: Flash 8*

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