ORGANIZING THE FINAL STORY

The student profile story you were given is an example of a profile story just like the one you are doing. This story was built from profile observation, searching documents, and interviewing experts. You already have the same three building blocks. Use this story to help you see how to put the story together. Keep in mind this is only an example. Your story may vary in its structure. However, this is a model that should work for a number of stories if you need some help getting it organized.

Here's what I want you to do with this story to analyze how it was put together.

1. Work with one or two other people in analyzing the story's organization. Talk with them about the structure of the story.

2. Identify the major theme:

Where is stated most directly in the story?

3. As you read, identify major sub-themes (roughly three or four) and draw a heavy line between these sections:
   a.
   b.
   c.
   d.

4. In the left margin, mark each line in the story as one of three kinds of information (profile, interview, document). You can do this any way you find useful. Suggestion: a wavy line for profile; a straight line for interviews; a jagged line for documents. Or use different colored pens.

5. Circle key transitions, especially those between major sections (sub-themes). In the right margin, describe how the transition leads from one section to the next.

6. Find a section (or two) in which material from different sources is combined effectively. Talk about the way these different sources are combined into a single cohesive section of the story.

7. Identify any questions you have about the story's organization.