At a Glance
Evaluating the importance of actions, events, ideas, rules, etc., such as
• major international organizations
• the most important events in a novel
• reasons for the prosperity or downfall of a person or empire

Differentiated Instruction: Lesson 1
For struggling students, begin the lesson by reminding them of the original food pyramid. The most important food group, the one you were supposed to eat the most of, was on the bottom. The least important food group, the one you were supposed to eat the least of, was on the top.

Alternative Lesson
You can also use the pyramid to illustrate concepts involving a narrowing of responsibility. For example, you could write “President of the United States” on the top line and work with students to fill in the successive, broader layers of responsibility down to the general population.

LESSON 1 SUPPORT FOR READING
Step-by-Step Strategy
1. Begin with a topic that will require students to evaluate a number of items (actions, events, etc.), determining their relative importance.
2. Ask students to read and take notes about the topic.
3. Conduct a class discussion in which the students identify the items and evaluate their importance to the topic. Place the items in order from most to least important, starting at the bottom of the pyramid.

LESSON 2 SUPPORT FOR WRITING
Step-by-Step Strategy
1. Start with the steps outlined under Lesson 1.
2. Ask students to use the information outlined on the pyramid to write a paper about the topic.
3. Give students the following format for their assignment.
   • Introduce the topic in the first sentence.
   • Discuss the related items (actions, events, rules, etc.) in the order of their importance, from least to most important.
   • Write a conclusion based on the pyramid.