

# AUTHOR'S OVERALL ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERN

Authors develop their ideas in a variety of ways. The good reader has learned to recognize the common patterns used by authors to develop ideas.

An entire paragraph, or a long selection, may be developed by one single method. In other instances, a paragraph or selection may be developed by a combination of methods. When a combination occurs, one method provides a framework within which the other methods are used. For instance, a definition might be explained by examples, or by comparison/contrast.

When reading a paragraph or selection in which different methods of organization are used, it is helpful to recognize the principal method of development. Understanding the overall framework helps the reader understand the author's ideas and predict the details. It allows the reader to think along with the author.

Some of the most common methods of organization are listed below, along with signal words and strategies to help identify them.

## 1. COMPARISON/CONTRAST

The topic sentence names the objects or ideas being compared. Likenesses and/or differences are discussed. Some terms indicating that the comparison/contrast pattern is being used include:

(comparison)	likewise also	in like manner as with	similarly in the same way
(contrast)	although on the other hand opposed to still nevertheless	but contrasted with conversely yet notwithstanding	however different from in contrast in spite of on the contrary

## 2. CAUSE/EFFECT

The topic sentence suggests why something is as it is or answers "what happens when..." The details then give reasons or causes, effects or outcomes. Some terms indicating cause/effect are:

accordingly	as a result	because
consequently	hence	thus
reasons	effects	results
may be due to	therefore	affect

### 3. **TIME ORDER (Sequence)**

The topic sentence may suggest or directly state that a process, procedure, or experiment will be discussed, or an event may be introduced from its beginning. Words like “steps” or “stages” may be used in the topic sentence. Some terms pointing out that a time order pattern is being used are:

after	afterward	at that time
before	during	immediately
formerly	presently	shortly
thereupon	until	while
temporarily	at last	now
first	finally	eventually
next	following this	then

### 4. **GENERALIZATION AND EXAMPLE**

The topic sentence might suggest that examples will be given, like in the following topic sentences: “There are many cases when life is not fair.” “Look around you and you will see many examples of the importance of electricity.” “There are several movies that treat women only as sexual objects.” Some terms indicating that generalization and example is being used are:

for example	for instance	such as
to illustrate	to demonstrate	

### 5. **SUMMARY**

The author seems to be tying up loose ends and condensing information of a more detailed nature. Some terms that point out a summary pattern are:

in brief	in conclusion	in short
on the whole	to sum up	to summarize

### 6. **DEFINITION**

The topic sentence should name the thing to be defined, and the word “is” may be emphasized and repeated often. Terms that define the pattern include:

means	defined as	is
refers to	consists of	

### 7. **CLASSIFICATION**

In the paragraph or selection, details are separated into categories of classes and then there is a discussion of how each class fits into the pattern. Terms that indicate the classification pattern is being used include:

properties	elements	features
characteristics	aspects	types
kinds		

## 8. CLARIFICATION

The topic sentence mentions an idea which is then discussed at length in simple terms. Some terms indicating that clarification is being used are:

as a matter of fact	clearly	evidently
in fact	in other words	of course
obviously		

## 9. LOCATION/SPATIAL ORDER

The topic sentence may refer to space order. Some terms that indicate this pattern is being used are:

above	adjacent to	below
beyond	close to	inside
nearby	next to	around
opposite	within	on

## 10. SIMPLE LISTING/ENUMERATION

The supporting details are organized into a list of points which have no inherent order or connection. Some terms pointing out this pattern are:

also	and	besides
equally important	further	furthermore
moreover	in addition	

### Author's Overall Organizational Pattern

<b>EXERCISES:</b> For each selection, circle the letter indicating the principal pattern of organization used by the author.
--

**Responsibility, a concept basic to Reality Therapy, is here defined as the ability to fulfill one's needs, and to do so in a way that does not deprive others of the ability to fulfill their needs. To illustrate, a responsible person is able to give and receive love. If a girl, for example, falls in love with a responsible man, we would expect him either to return her love or to let her know in a considerate way that he appreciates her affection, but that he does not share her feelings. If he takes advantage of her love, we would not consider him responsible.**

**A responsible person also does that which gives a feeling of self-worth and a feeling that he is worthwhile to others. He is motivated to strive and perhaps endure privation to attain self-worth. When a responsible person says that he will perform a job for us, he will try to accomplish what was asked.**

1. In developing the passage, the organizational pattern used by the author could be described as
  - a. contrast and comparison
  - b. time order
  - c. simple listing
  - d. definition

**If we study a child's handwriting, certain personality traits are revealed. If children have handwriting that is slanted only a little to the right or is straight up and down, they have a moderate temperament and use good judgment. This type is usually affectionate and sharing. However, if the handwriting slants to the *far* right, they are usually emotional children who react quickly. Their quick responses are often negative responses. The third type, children who write with a backhand slant, are very logical, unemotional, and sometimes very insecure. Their world seems to revolve around themselves rather than around friends and loved ones.**

2. In developing the passage, the organizational pattern used by the author could be described as
  - a. classification
  - b. cause/effect
  - c. summary
  - d. time order

**As I stood on the hilltop, my eye took in the signs of active life in the valley below. Down to the right was a schoolyard packed with young children at play. Directly below was a park where bands of old people were sitting. Off to the left I could see a group of joggers running along a well-worn path in single file.**

3. The organizational pattern used by the author could be described as
  - a. generalization and example
  - b. location
  - c. simple listing
  - d. time order

**There are three basic stages involved in the development of identical twins. Their growth begins when the father's sperm pierces the egg of the mother. The fertilized egg then splits and divides into equal halves, each half receiving exactly the same number of chromosomes and genes. The halves of the egg eventually develop into two babies who are of the same sex and who are identical in all hereditary traits such as hair color and eye color.**

4. The organizational pattern used by the author could be described as
  - a. clarification
  - b. definition
  - c. time order
  - d. location

**It would seem, in retrospect, that the prohibition laws of the 1920's actually helped encourage, rather than hinder, illegal activity. Citizens in every section of the country showed nothing but contempt for the laws, and any attempt to enforce the law was met with indifference or hostility. Probably the worst effect of the laws was that the control of liquor distribution fell into the hands of organized crime, which resulted in increased criminal violence throughout the country. Rather than decreasing crime, the prohibition laws actually helped to increase it.**

5. The organizational pattern used by the author could be described as
  - a. cause/effect
  - b. classification
  - c. time sequence
  - d. simple listing

**Many high school graduates go straight on to college. Others go to work full-time, then decide later to start college. The graduate who goes off to a job always runs the risk of being unable to let go of that paycheck. It just may be too hard to live the lean life of a student again. However, once that person does return to college, he usually brings a maturity that is a big asset in the classroom. True, that student will be older than the others when he finally gets that college degree. On the other hand, this older student more often knows from experience what kind of job best suits him. This student is less likely to end up in a make-do job after college.**

6. The organizational pattern used by the author may be described as
  - a. summary
  - b. clarification
  - c. generalization and example
  - d. contrast

**One of the shortcomings of the clinical approach to treating mental illness is that definitions of normal behavior are subjective. Another shortcoming of the approach is that it assumes that when a patient has recovered, he will be able to return to his previous environment. Furthermore, few psychologists are adequately trained in this approach.**

7. The organizational pattern used by the author may be described as
  - a. definition
  - b. cause/effect
  - c. simple listing
  - d. classification

**We have now seen that illiteracy is definitely a hindrance in any occupation. In brief, problems range from the inability to know what is going on in that particular business to the inability to properly express one's ideas. Education broadens one's viewpoint, makes one more aware of the many benefits and possibilities life holds, and gives the incentives one needs to reach for something more than just being.**

8. The organizational pattern used by the author may be described as
  - a. summary
  - b. definition
  - c. classification
  - d. comparison/contrast

**The madman's repeated clashes with authority fit a familiar pattern: since arriving in the U.S. from Cuba in 1980, Jose Delgado had been arrested at least ten times for petty crimes and hospitalized as a mental patient six times. Once he had smashed a chalice during a service at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Twice in the past six months, city psychiatrists had examined him and failed to discover any reason not to return him to the streets.**

**They obviously overlooked something. Outside St. Patrick's last Wednesday night, the 6 foot 5 inch Delgado removed his clothes, entered the soaring Manhattan landmark and began to strike worshippers. Police officer James McMann radioed for help before Delgado knocked him out with a wrought-iron prayer stand and then struck and killed an usher. Lunging at one of three newly arrived policemen, he was shot dead.**

9. The organizational pattern used by the author may be described as
  - a. clarification
  - b. contrast
  - c. time order
  - d. definition

**Each tribe was a group of bands, a practical association for hunting and subsisting according to the pattern of bison migrations. Most of the year these animals grazed over the Plains in small groups but during the late summer rutting (mating) season “they came together in huge herds that blackened the Plains.” The Indians responded with a parallel social cycle, uniting for the summer encampment and for the conduct of tribal business and ceremony.**

10. The organizational pattern used by the author may be described as
  - a. comparison
  - b. cause/effect
  - c. summary
  - d. classification

**Treatments for depression vary. The first step is to have a medical checkup. Therapy may be appropriate if you are grieving an important loss, such as a long-term relationship or job, when symptoms have become chronic or if you are acting destructive or are inclined to do so.**

11. The organizational pattern used by the author may be described as
  - a. simple listing
  - b. definition
  - c. cause/effect
  - d. generalization and example