

Patterns of Organization



YEP, TIME TO TAKE NOTES AGAIN!



Text Structure



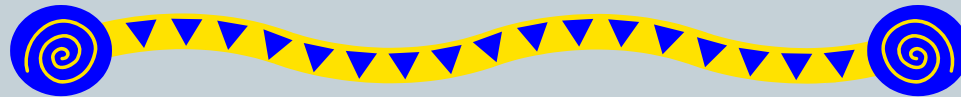
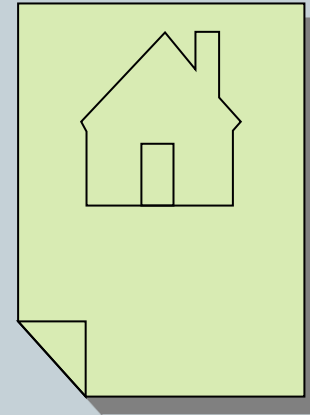
- Texts have a structure, just like buildings.
- Different structures are used to build different types of buildings.
- Different structures are used to write different types of writing.
 - Structure = Organizational pattern



Organizational Patterns



- Cause-effect
- Comparison-contrast
- Sequence of events
- Problem-solution



Cause-effect



- The causes of an event and its resulting events are presented.
- Key/Signal Words:
 - **since**
 - **as a result**
 - **because of** + noun phrase
 - **because**
 - **therefore**
 - **due to** + noun phrase
 - **consequently**
 - **for this reason**
 - **so**



Cause-effect Example



In recent decades, cities have grown so large that now about 50% of the Earth's population lives in urban areas. There are several reasons for this occurrence. First, the increasing industrialization of the nineteenth century resulted in the creation of many factory jobs, which tended to be located in cities. These jobs, with their promise of a better material life, attracted many people from rural areas. Second, there were many schools established to educate the children of the new factory laborers. The promise of a better education persuaded many families to leave farming communities and move to the cities. Finally, as the cities grew, people established places of leisure, entertainment, and culture, such as sports stadiums, theaters, and museums. For many people, these facilities made city life appear more interesting than life on the farm, and therefore drew them away from rural communities.

Cause-effect

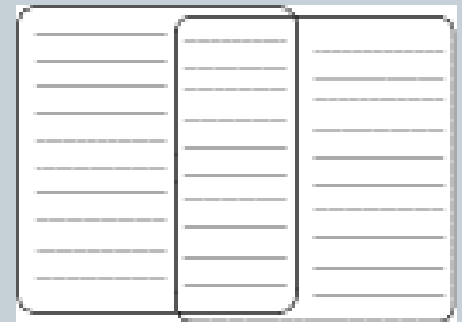


EFFECT	CAUSES
Cities have grown very large. [There are several reasons for this.]	Factory jobs attracted people.
(Cities have grown very large.)	Better schools attracted families to move to the city.
(Cities have grown very large.)	Places of leisure, entertainment, and culture made city life appear more interesting.

Comparison-contrast



- Two or more events, objects, concepts, or places are compared or contrasted (showing how they are alike or different).
- Ask yourself:
 - What are the similar and different qualities of these things?
 - What qualities of each thing correspond to one another? In what way?



Comparison-contrast Signal Words

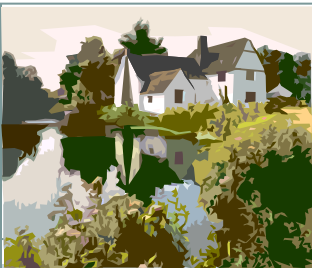


Comparison

- Similarly
- The same
- Likewise
- ...the same as...
- ...also...
- ...too

Contrast

- But
- However
- Nevertheless
- In contrast
- Different



Comparison-contrast Example



My hometown and my college town have several things in common. First, both are small rural communities. For example, my hometown, Gridlock, has a population of only about 10,000 people. Similarly, my college town, Subnormal, consists of about 11,000 local residents. This population swells to 15,000 people when the college students are attending classes. A second way in which these two towns are similar is that they are both located in rural areas. Gridlock is surrounded by many acres of farmland which is devoted mainly to growing corn and soybeans. In the same way, Subnormal lies in the center of farmland which is used to raise hogs and cattle .

Comparison-contrast Example



Even though Arizona and Rhode Island are both states of the U.S., they are strikingly **different in many ways**. For example, the physical size of each state **is different**. Arizona is large, having an area of 114,000 square miles, **whereas** Rhode Island is only about a tenth the size, having an area of only 1,214 square miles. **Another difference** is in the size of the population of each state. Arizona has about four million people living in it, **but** Rhode Island has less than one million. The two states **also differ in** the kinds of natural environments that each has. For example, Arizona is a very dry state, consisting of large desert areas that do not receive much rainfall every year. **However**, Rhode Island is located in a temperate zone and receives an average of 44 inches of rain per year. In addition, **while** Arizona is a landlocked state and thus has no seashore, Rhode Island lies on the Atlantic Ocean and does have a significant coastline.



Sequence of Events



- In this pattern the information explains the steps in a particular procedure or process. The steps and stages lead up to a final product or finished project.

Readings answer the questions:



- “How?”
- “In what sequence or order?”

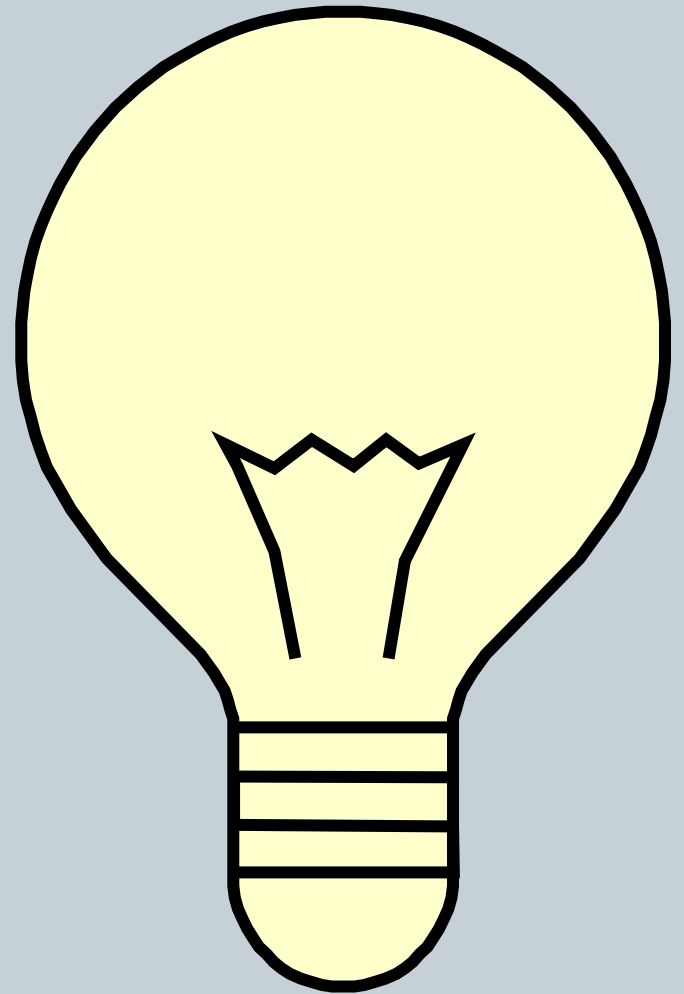
When Used: All disciplines, particularly technical textbooks.

- The items being considered usually fit into the same general category.

Sequence of Events



- Signal Words:
 - how to
 - in the process of
 - The following steps
 - First
 - Second
 - third



Problem-Solution



- The text presents a significant problem and explains it in detail. Then, a possible solution is proposed. Sometimes, only the problem is presented because there is no solution.

Readings answer the questions:

- “What is the problem?”
- “What is a possible solution?”

When Used: Often in essays and editorials

- The items being considered usually fit into
- the same general category.

Problem-Solution



Thesis example: Since pollution has a detrimental impact on modern living standards, a key solution is increased recycling of waste products.



Problem-Solution



- **Signal Words**

- Problem
- Need
- Difficulty
- Dilemma
- Enigma
- Challenge
- issue

- **Signal Words**

- Answer
- Propose
- Suggest
- Indicate
- Solve
- Resolve
- Improve
- Plan
- respond to a need

Problem-Solution Example



The growth of urban areas exacerbated many *problems*, including the absence of clean drinking water, the lack of cheap public transportation, and most importantly, poor sanitation. Sanitation problems led to heavy urban mortality rates and frequent epidemics of typhoid, dysentery, typhus, cholera, and yellow fever. Government officials, recognizing the *need for improvement*, initiated the return to suburban and rural areas. The *proposal involved several cost effective solutions*. Local village water delivery systems were improved, and as villages were substantially smaller, almost everything was in walking distance, thereby eliminating the need for public transportation.

