

Academic Writing

FOCUS	ORGANIZATION	DEVELOPMENT	PURPOSE
<p>Subject What you are writing about (e.g., Hamlet, the Depression, modern art)</p> <p>Main Idea What you are trying to say about the subject. This is also known as your "point," as in "What's your <i>point</i>?"</p>	<p>Cause-Effect Arranged to show connections between a result and the events that preceded it. Also known as Problem-Solution.</p> <p>Classification Organized into categories or groups according to various traits.</p> <p>Comparison-Contrast Organized to emphasize similarities and differences.</p> <p>Listing Arranged in a list with no consideration for other qualities.</p> <p>Mixed Organized using a blend of patterns. Might, for example, classify groups while also comparing or contrasting them.</p> <p>Order of Degree Organized in order of importance, value, or some other quality. Also known as Order of Importance.</p> <p>Sequential Arranged in the order that events occur. Also known as Time order or Chronological order.</p> <p>Spatial Arranged according to location or geographical order. Also known as Geographical order.</p>	<p>Examples Primary text Secondary texts Class discussions Outside world</p> <p>Details Sensory Background Factual</p> <p>Quotations Direct Indirect Primary text Secondary texts</p> <p>Explanations Importance Meaning Purpose Effect</p> <p>Elaborations Connections Clarifications Comparisons Contrasts Consequences Concessions</p>	<p>Cause and Effect Answers the question, "Why did it happen?"</p> <p>Classification Answers the questions, "What kind is it?" or "What are its parts?"</p> <p>Compare-Contrast Answers the questions, "What is it like?" or "How is it different?"</p> <p>Definition Answers the question, "What is it?"</p> <p>Description Answers the question, "What does it look, sound, smell, taste, or feel like?"</p> <p>Illustration Answers the question, "What is an example?"</p> <p>Narration Answers the question, "What happened and when?"</p> <p>Persuasion Answers the question, "Why should I want to do, think, or value that?"</p> <p>Problem-Solution Answers the question, "What is the problem and how can it be solved?"</p> <p>Process Analysis Answers the question, "How did it happen?"</p>