

# Writing Patterns



Common Writing Patterns		
Type	Description	Signal Words
<b>Definition</b>	Explain the meaning of a word or phrase	<i>is, refers to, means, is defined as, is called, is characterized by, entails</i>
<b>Classification</b>	Divide a topic into parts based on specific characteristics	<i>classified as, comprises, is comprised of, consists of, elements, kinds, types, stages, groups</i>
<b>Generalization and Example</b>	Provide a general statement followed by specific examples to prove the statement	<i>for example, for instance, to illustrate, such as</i>
<b>Cause and Effect</b>	Show how things are related by explaining how one thing causes another	<i>causes, effects, is caused by, is produced by, is the result of, results from, because, consequently, as a result</i>
<b>Comparison/Contrast</b>	Compare and contrast two or more things to show how they are similar and/or different	<p><b>Similarity:</b> <i>like, similarly, likewise, resembles, same, in comparison, in the same way, both, share</i></p> <p><b>Difference:</b> <i>unlike, in contrast, differently, however, despite, whereas, on the other hand, on the contrary, differs from, rather than</i></p>
<b>List</b>	Present lists of information	<i>also, in addition, another, additionally, furthermore, moreover, next, finally, first, second, third, etc.</i>
<b>Sequence</b>	Describe a process, series of events, spatial order, or order of importance	<i>first, second, before, after, next, then, last, finally, steps, phases, stages, dates, times, numbers, letters</i>
<b>Summary</b>	Provide a condensed review of a topic or text	<i>in summary, in brief, in conclusion, in short, to sum up, to summarize</i>



## Definition

Definition  
(main idea)

example or information

example or information

etc.

## Classification

Major Category  
(main idea)

first subdivision

second subdivision

etc.

## Generalization & Example

General Statement  
(main idea)

first example

second example

etc.

## Cause & Effect

Effect  
(main idea)

first cause

second cause

etc.

## Comparison/ Contrast

Items to Compare  
(main idea)

first similarity or  
difference

second similarity or  
difference

etc.

## List

List Topic  
(main idea)

first item

second item

etc.

## Sequence

Process or Event  
(main idea)

step one

step two

etc.

## Summary

Conclusion  
(main idea)

first key point

second key point

etc.