

How to Identify Writing Patterns

Writing Pattern: a specific way of organizing ideas to convey a certain type of argument

Also known as

- Patterns of organization
- Rhetorical modes
- Rhetorical styles

Writing Patterns Help You:

- Focus your attention on a text and anticipate where it is going
- Remember what you read
- Develop your own writing

Analyze: break something down into its parts and examine them

The 8 Most Common Writing Patterns

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