

How to Identify Writing Patterns

Analyze: break something down into its parts and examine them

Writing Patterns Help You:

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

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

The 8 Most Common Writing Patterns

Type	Description	Signal Words
Definition	Explain the meaning of a word or phrase	<i>is, refers to, means, is defined as, is called, is characterized by, entails</i>
Classification	Divide a topic into parts based on specific characteristics	<i>classified as, comprises, is comprised of, consists of, elements, kinds, types, stages, groups</i>
Generalization and Example	Provide a general statement followed by specific examples to prove the statement	<i>for example, for instance, to illustrate, such as</i>
Cause and Effect	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>
Comparison / Contrast	Compare and contrast two or more things to show how they are similar and/or different	Similarity: <i>like, similarly, likewise, resembles, same, in comparison, in the same way, both, share</i> Difference: <i>unlike, in contrast, differently, however, despite, whereas, on the other hand, on the contrary, differs from, rather than</i>
List	Present lists of information	<i>also, in addition, another, additionally, furthermore, moreover, next, finally, first, second, third, etc.</i>
Sequence	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>