# Writing Patterns

## Common Writing Patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Signal Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
<td>Explain the meaning of a word or phrase</td>
<td><em>is, refers to, means, is defined as, is called, is characterized by, entails</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Classification</strong></td>
<td>Divide a topic into parts based on specific characteristics</td>
<td><em>classified as, comprises, is comprised of, consists of, elements, kinds, types, stages, groups</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Generalization and Example</strong></td>
<td>Provide a general statement followed by specific examples to prove the statement</td>
<td><em>for example, for instance, to illustrate, such as</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cause and Effect</strong></td>
<td>Show how things are related by explaining how one thing causes another</td>
<td><em>causes, effects, is caused by, is produced by, is the result of, results from, because, consequently, as a result</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **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* |
| **Summary**            | Provide a condensed review of a topic or text                                | *in summary, in brief, in conclusion, in short, to sum up, to summarize* |
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.