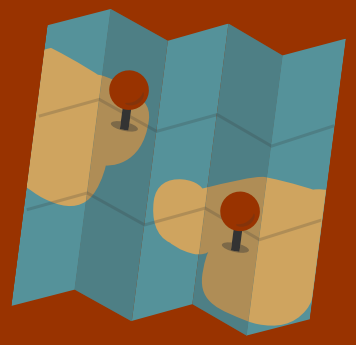


PATTERNS OF ORGANIZATION



The order of information suggests a relationship between and among details. Adopting one or more of the following patterns of organization gives readers a roadmap to follow the discussion.

CAUSE & EFFECT

Describes how one event (cause) may prompt another (effect). Depending on the focus, it can examine how one or more effects originate from a particular cause, or how one or more causes generate a particular effect.



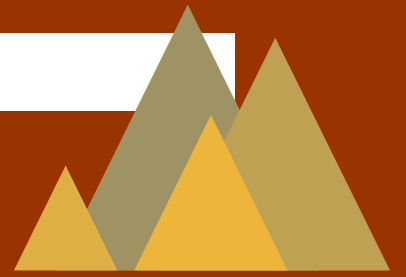
CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Reflects the order in which events, experiences, actions... take place; narrative summaries, for example, explain what happens in the order it occurs. Reverse chronological order—moving from most to least recent—highlights the progression of events leading to the present situation, as evident in application materials.



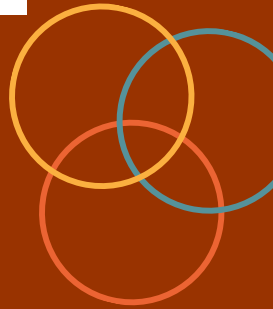
CLIMATIC ORDER

Uses smaller, less important information and ideas to build toward larger, more significant ones, often culminating in a dramatic or noteworthy point.



COMPARISON/CONTRAST

Explains similarities and/or differences between two or more entities. Some discussions focus around individual points of comparison, offering a side-by-side analysis of where and how different entities converge with or diverge from others regarding each point. Other discussions explain an entity in full and then introduce subsequent entities—one at a time—noting how each echoes or deviates from those that have already been addressed.



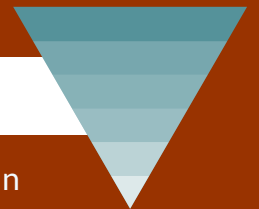
DESCRIPTION

Presents features or ideas in a point-by-point manner (often grouping information around common elements), addressing one point in depth before moving on to later points. The order of any resulting description(s) may depend on the relationship between and among the elements.



GENERAL TO SPECIFIC

Begins with general observations, situations, events..., which are then explained, analyzed, or otherwise examined in greater detail.



RANK ORDER

Prioritizes ideas, information, or other elements within a designated category, such as preference, capability, effectiveness, or significance.



PROBLEM-SOLUTION

Explains a limitation or concern and then suggests how to address, solve, or otherwise mitigate the situation. Proposals often use this pattern.



SEQUENTIAL ORDER

Indicates steps in a process or event. Instructions for completing tasks (for example, recipes, lab reports, procedures) adopt this organization.



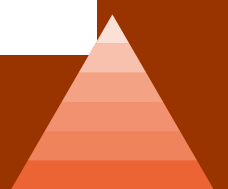
SPATIAL ORDER

Specifies the location of elements in relation to other elements. Descriptions of landscapes, diagrams, web pages, paintings, or other visuals may rely on this approach.



SPECIFIC TO GENERAL

Introduces a specific statement, detail, example, observation..., which is expanded to larger observations, conclusions, or applications.



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