

This handout should be used in conjunction with the “Patterns of Organization 2” podcast. This podcast only includes cause and effect, comparison and contrast and classification thought patterns. “Patterns of Organization 1” includes definition, time order and simple listing thought patterns.

*It is suggested to complete the “Topic and Main Idea” and the “Supporting Detail” podcasts before beginning “Patterns of Organization 2.”

What are patterns of organization?

Patterns of organization or thought patterns show how ideas relate in a passage.

Why are patterns of organization important?

- Authors often use patterns of organization or thought patterns in their writing because it helps to support the point of their writing and make their writing clearer to the reader.
- By being able to recognize the thought pattern in a piece of writing, readers are often better able to identify the main idea and supporting details of the passage.
- Patterns of organization are often used in textbooks and therefore will help you outline and summarize more completely.

Common patterns:

1. Cause and Effect – The *cause and effect* thought pattern shows the relationship of the cause, why something happens, and the effect, the outcome or result.



Cause and Effect Transition Words

Accordingly	Consequently	Results in	Therefore
As a result	If...then	Since	Thus
Because	Leads to	So	

2. Comparison and Contrast – The *comparison and contrast* thought pattern shows the relationship between ideas by comparing, showing how two or more ideas are similar, or by contrasting, showing how two or more ideas are different.

Comparison Transition Words

Alike	Equally	Just like	Similar
As	In a similar manner	Like	Similarity
As well as	In the same way	Resemble	Similarly
Both	Just as	Same	

Contrast Transition Words

Although	Difference	In contrast	Rather than
As opposed to	Differently	Instead	To the contrary
But	Even though	Nevertheless	While
Despite	However	On the contrary	Yet

3. Classification – The *Classification* thought pattern shows relationship between ideas by identifying smaller groups and describing each groups' traits.

Classification Transition Words

Another (group, kind, type)	First (group, kind, type)	Traits
Categories	Order	
Characteristics	Second (group, kind, type)	

Practice:

These practice examples are discussed in order on the podcast. Try them on your own before listening to the explanation. Identify the pattern of organization, main idea and major details.

- Bob and Bertha have been married for 50 years, and although they have many of the same interests, they credit the success of their marriage to their differences. Bob and Bertha have always loved traveling, but they think visiting countries the other would like, helps them to relate to each other. Bob and Bertha also enjoy their grandchildren. However, Bob really prefers to do outdoor activities with the kids while Bertha would rather spend special time baking and looking through photo albums. A marriage like theirs is hard to come by, but they say the work was well worth it.

Pattern of Organization _____

Main Idea _____

Major Details _____

- Because the internet opens the door to the entire world, good and bad, parents need to be extra vigilant when their children are using it. Predators are always looking for new victims and are able to quickly identify children who are using the internet without parental observation. This is why parents should always know what sites their child is visiting and with whom the child has had contact over the internet.

Pattern of Organization _____

Main Idea _____

Major Details _____

3. There are three types of chocolate most commonly used in baking. Milk chocolate obviously contains milk and can be used without any sweetening agent. Semi-sweet chocolate also does not need a sweetening agent and is one of the more common chocolates to use while baking in the everyday household. Bittersweet chocolate can be used without a sweetening agent if the desired effect is a chocolate flavor without the sweetness. However, bittersweet chocolate is more commonly used along with a sweetening agent. Bittersweet chocolate is also the least likely used chocolate because of this reason.

Pattern of Organization _____

Main Idea _____

Major Details _____

Answer Key: Remember your answers may be worded differently but should have very similar ideas.

1. Pattern of Organization: Comparison and contrast

Main Idea: Although Bob and Bertha have similar interests, they credit the success of their marriage to their differences.

Major Details:

- Both like traveling
- Like visiting different countries
- Both enjoy their grandchildren
- Like different activities with the grandchildren

2. Pattern of Organization: Cause and Effect

Main Idea: Because the internet opens the door to the entire world, good and bad, parents need to be extra vigilant when their children are using it.

Major Details:

- Cause: Predators looking for new victims and know who to target

- Effect: Parents need to know what sites are being visited and with whom the child is communicating with

3. Pattern of Organization: Classification

Main Idea: There are three types of chocolate most commonly used in baking.

Major Details:

- Milk chocolate contains milk and is sweet
- Semi-sweet chocolate is sweet and the most common
- Bittersweet not sweet and is not common