Patterns of Organization

USE THE WRITER’S PLAN TO IMPROVE YOUR COMPREHENSION
Paragraphs Developed with Definitions

Terms & Definitions
Authors sometimes develop paragraphs by defining words or ideas in the text.

The Pell Grant is a need-based grant awarded to qualified undergraduate students who have not been awarded a previous degree. Amounts vary based on need and costs.

What is a Pell Grant?
Is defined by... also known as... is/are... the concept of...

Sometimes a comma and the word, “or” is a signal

Practice:

- Owning a home is a big deal. Besides being a major life goal, it is also a significant financial investment, since home values usually appreciate, or increase in value, over time.

- What does appreciate mean?

- Yes, increase in value
Paragraphs Developed with Examples

Authors sometimes develop their ideas by giving examples.

Sometimes it is easier to get a point across through a specific example of a situation or an experience.
Example Pattern
Signal Words

Authors often use words such as:

For instance...for example...or, such...
Don’t even consider purchasing a used car without first getting a Carfax report. This document, which you can purchase yourself or get through a dealership, traces the history of the vehicle in question via its VIN. The exercise turns up information from sources such as extended-service companies and state Department of Motor Vehicles. It’s not flawless, but the system provides the best record of a car’s often checkered past, including previous owners, reported accidents, and flood damage.

What examples does the author use to help you understand the information from Carfax reports?

Yes, the system provides the best record of a car’s often checkered past, including previous owners, reported accidents, and flood damage.
Authors may develop paragraphs according to a pattern of time order or sequence. In this case, it is critical to pay attention to the order in which the information is presented.

In a Time Order pattern, the author wants the reader to know that each item is presented in a specific time sequence.
Time Order/Sequence Pattern

Signal Words:
First, secondly, thirdly…
Lastly, finally…once…at this time…
next…then…when…whenever…
while…during…until…after…before…
previously, later…following…prior to…

THIS PATTERN IS OFTEN USED IN HISTORICAL OR NARRATIVE GENRES. IF SOMEONE IS TELLING A STORY, THE ORDER OF THE FACTS OR EVENTS IS IMPORTANT.
Practice: Time Order/Sequence

Pay off your smallest high-interest debt.

Review your credit card debts. In addition to making the minimum payments on all your credit cards, focus on accelerating the payment of your smallest high-interest card first. You will be encouraged as you make progress, finally eliminating that debt.

Then, after you pay off the first credit card, apply its payment toward the next smallest one. After the second credit card is paid off, apply what you were paying on the first and second toward the third smallest credit card debt, and so forth. That’s the snowball principle in action!
What are the steps in paying off your credit cards?

Review your credit card debts.
First, in addition to making the minimum payments on all your credit cards, focus on accelerating the payment of your smallest high-interest card.

Then, after you pay off the first credit card, apply its payment toward the next smallest one.

After, the second credit card is paid off, apply what you were paying on the first and second toward the third smallest credit card debt, and so forth.
Paragraphs Developed with Simple List

SOMETIMES AUTHORS CONVEY A SIMPLE LIST OF IDEAS IN NO PARTICULAR SEQUENCE OR ORDER.
Simple List Pattern of Organization

Sometimes authors convey a simple list of ideas in no particular sequence or order. If they are simply making several points in a row, they may state *first* for the first point, *second* for the next point, and *finally* for the last point.
Simple Listing

The internet can be a time-efficient tool for performing research price comparisons, but be careful of two common online problems. The first is advertising that masquerades as informative articles. The second problem is retailers that may be here today and gone tomorrow or who may be unresponsive after the purchase. Of course, this latter problem occurs with traditional bricks-and-mortar retailers, too.

What are two common on-line problems?

First:
Second:
Patterns of Organization

Summary

Use the writer’s plan to improve your comprehension.

Use patterns of organization in text.

Recognize paragraphs developed:
With Definition
With Example
With Time Order/Sequence
With Simple Listing