

## Some organizational patterns

Essay structure	Order of Importance or Logical division	Block or Point-by-Point (e.g. comparison/contrast essay)	Block or Point-by-Point (e.g. problem/solution essay)	Block or Point-by-Point (e.g. argumentative/thesis-led essays)
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	Provide the context for the topic; describe the situation; identify key causes & effects	Provide the context for the topic; identify the two concepts/theories/approaches to be compared; state purpose and thesis; identify key points to be compared.	Provide the context for the topic/problem; describe the problem; state thesis; identify key aspects and solutions	Provide the context for the topic; explain issues involved; establish thesis, state key arguments
<b>BODY</b>	Explain one cause or effect in each supporting paragraph; if there are many causes group them into several main categories; organise causes or effects using <b>time or sequence order</b> or <b>order of importance</b> .	<p><b>Block method</b> Discuss the similarities then the differences or vice versa. <b>NB: The order should reflect your thesis for the essay.</b> (eg, If your thesis is that there are more similarities, then it would be logical to start with the differences first)</p>	<p><b>Point-by-Point</b> In each paragraph, state the point for the basis of the comparison, and compare the two approaches with regard to that point, (eg, The point of comparison is <b>Use of Space</b>. You will explore the similarities and differences for that point).</p>	<p><b>Block method</b> All problems, discussed in order of importance or significance, followed by the solutions.</p> <p><b>Point-by-Point</b> 1<sup>st</sup> problem and solution 2<sup>nd</sup> problem and solution 3<sup>rd</sup> problem and solution</p> <p>(Organise the problems in order of importance or significance).</p>
		<p><b>Which is better: block or point-by-point?</b> The point-by-point method is generally more suited to longer essays and the block method to shorter essays.</p>		
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	Summarise key issues; restate the significance of the issue(s); point to implications for the future.	Identify key points for comparison; summarise the main similarities and differences; draw a conclusion about which is more significant or restate the thesis.	Summarise the solutions; draw a conclusion or make a prediction based on your suggestions.	Summarise key arguments; restate thesis more strongly and in different words.
<b>TRANSITIONS/ LINKING WORDS</b>	<b>Useful phrases:</b> The first cause; One cause is...; Another...; As a result; A is the result of B; A leads to B; consequently; A can be divided into ...There are three main causes:...	<b>Useful phrases (comparison):</b> in the same way; similarly; compared to; both; is similar to; just as, have in common <b>Useful phrases (contrast):</b> however, although, nevertheless, unlike; although; on the other hand; whereas; in spite of, despite, on the contrary; differs from; in contrast.	<b>Useful phrases:</b> The first; the best; another; one	<b>Useful phrases:</b> One; another; perhaps the best known/notable/distinctive is... It is true that... However,... It may be argued that...