

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)	
INTRODUCTION	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	
BODY	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 time or sequence order or order of importance .	Block method Discuss the similarities then the differences or vice versa. NB: The order should reflect your thesis for the essay. (eg, If your thesis is that there are more similarities, then it would be logical to start with the differences first)	Point-by-Point 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 Use of Space . You will explore the similarities and differences for that point).	Block method All problems, discussed in order of importance or significance, followed by the solutions. Point-by-Point 1 st problem and solution 2 nd problem and solution 3 rd problem and solution (Organise the problems in order of importance or significance).	Block method Block 1: Summary of other side's arguments followed by rebuttal or refutation. Block 2: Your Counter-arguments Point-by-Point 1 st argument, rebuttal and your counter argument 2 nd argument, rebuttal, and your counterarguments, and so on (see Understanding Essay Types for more on argumentative essays.)
		Which is better: block or point-by-point? The point-by-point method is generally more suited to longer essays and the block method to shorter essays.			
CONCLUSION	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.	
TRANSITIONS/ LINKING WORDS	Useful phrases: 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:...	Useful phrases (comparison): in the same way; similarly; compared to; both; is similar to; just as, have in common Useful phrases (contrast): however, although, nevertheless, unlike; although; on the other hand; whereas; in spite of, despite, on the contrary; differs from; in contrast.	Useful phrases: The first; the best; another; one	Useful phrases: One; another; perhaps the best known/notable/distinctive is... It is true that... However,... It may be argued that...	