PATTERNS OF ORGANIZATION & ORGANIZERS

INTERPRETING VISUALS, GRAPHICS, & OUTLINES
Patterns of Organization

- Patterns help identify the main idea.
- Use signal words to create and identify a particular pattern.
- Anticipate the overall pattern of organization.
- Place the major supporting details into the outline pattern used by the author.
CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER/TIME/SEQUENCE/PROCESS

Details are listed:

- In the order in which they occurred or will occur
- In a specifically planned order in which they must develop a narrative or explain a process.

Signal Words: First, next, after, then, before, during, dates
Sensory details help the reader visualize a topic by describing the look, taste, texture, location, smell, least to most, etc.

Signal Words: colors, consistencies (soft/hard), characteristics
Details are used to explain a concept by giving concrete instances that demonstrate the concept.

Ideas move from a general statement to examples.

Signal Words: For example, for instance, to illustrate.
**Definition**

- Explains a topic by discussing its characteristics.
- Define the concept, identify the group/category, and give examples to distinguish the characteristics.

Signals: The defined term can be *italicized* or **boldfaced** type. Consists of, is a term that, means, corresponds
This is used to simplify a complex topic.
Use details to explain a topic by organizing it into categories or parts.
Then, explain each of the parts.

Signal Words: another kind, is composed of, types, kinds, groups, first, second, another
Comparison & Contrast

- Explains how things are similar and different
- Identify two items and use details to show how they are alike, different, or both.
- Explain subject by subject or point by point.

- Signal Words: alike, just as, as well as, likewise, although, as opposed to, instead of
CAUSE & EFFECT

- Explains why things happen or what happens as a result of an event or action
- One cause could lead to several effects or several causes could lead to one effect.

Signal Words: Because of, due to, for this reason, as a result of, hence, therefore
Cause

Effect

Effect

Effect

Effect
VISUALS, GRAPHICS & OUTLINES
VISUALS HELP MAKE A POINT THROUGH THE USE OF A PICTURE; SURVEY THE PICTURE, IDENTIFY THE TOPIC, ASSESS THE DETAILS, & DETERMINE THE MAIN IDEA.
Education Pays

Unemployment rate in 2012 (%)

- Doctoral Degree: 1.9
- Professional Degree: 2.4
- Master’s Degree: 4.0
- Bachelor’s Degree: 5.4
- Associate Degree: 7.0
- Some college, no degree: 9.2
- High school diploma: 10.3
- Less than a high school diploma: 14.9

Average: 8.2%

Median Weekly Earnings in 2012 ($)

- Doctoral Degree: $1,550
- Professional Degree: $1,610
- Master’s Degree: $1,272
- Bachelor’s Degree: $1,038
- Associate Degree: $767
- Some college, no degree: $712
- High school diploma: $626
- Less than a high school diploma: $444

Average: $782

OUTLINES

- Organizes information in a systematic way.

[Diagram showing a hierarchical structure with nodes labeled 'MI', 'Maj. D', and 'Minor']
SUMMARY POINTS

1. What is the purpose of a transition/signal words?

2. Why is it important to understand patterns in text?

3. How do patterns affect your writing?

4. How should you read/interpret graphics?

5. What do outlines & organizers do?

6. What do visuals do?