

The **WRITING** CENTER

**Elftmann Student
Success Center**

**A Guide On
How To:**

Paragraph Patterns

- Patterns
- Key Words
- Structures



Using Paragraph Patterns in Reading

As a reader, you can search for patterns in the information to better understand it. The best indicators of the purpose of the reading – and thus the pattern a paragraph will follow – are the key words and phrases that move from one idea to the next, or the transitions.

Additionally, as a student you can listen for transitions during a lecture to find important points or note-worthy pieces of information. Then, you can determine how your notes could be set up. For example, if you notice that your instructor is using transitions like first, second, and next, you can set up your notes in a way so the process is easily recorded and reviewed.

Pattern	Key Words	Possible Note-Taking Structure
<p>Definition</p> <p>Explains a term or phrase using distinguishing characteristics or synonyms</p> <p><i>Example: Definition of a mechanic</i></p>	<p>Definition: Refers to, means, can be defined as, is, otherwise/also known as</p> <p>Features: consists of, specifically, especially, in particular, in detail, namely, including</p>	<p><i>Graphic Organizer:</i></p> <p>Concept Map</p>
<p>Time Sequence/ Process</p> <p>Describes steps, events, processes, or procedures</p> <p><i>Example: Troubleshooting guide</i></p>	<p>Begin: first, initially, to begin with</p> <p>Continue: second, afterward, later</p> <p>meanwhile, then, during</p> <p>Finish: lastly, eventually, finally, ultimately</p>	<p><i>Graphic Organizer:</i></p> <p>Timeline</p> <p>Sequence Map</p> <p>Flowchart</p>

Pattern	Key Words	Possible Note-Taking Structure
<p>Illustration</p> <p>Proves a point using specific examples</p> <p><i>Example: Safety features of a car</i></p>	<p>Intro an Example: for example, such as, namely, specifically</p>	<p><i>Graphic Organizer:</i></p> <p>Matrix</p> <p>Word Web</p>
	<p>Add an Example: also, moreover, furthermore, a second</p>	
<p>Argument</p> <p>Takes a position on an issue and offers support</p> <p><i>Example: Why is it important to</i></p>	<p>Support: For this purpose, to this end, above all, truly, in fact, really, furthermore</p>	<p><i>Graphic Organizer:</i></p> <p>T-Chart</p> <p>Balance</p>
	<p>Answer: of course, certainly, surely, admittedly, undoubtedly</p>	
<p>Description</p> <p>Uses detail and images to give the reader a mental image</p> <p><i>Example: Presenting a draft of a product to a client not in the room</i></p>	<p>Space: above, beneath, under, over, straight ahead, surrounding, opposite, behind, nearby, beside, beyond, across, adjacent</p>	<p><i>Graphic Organizer:</i></p> <p>Hierarchy Map</p> <p>Word Web</p>
	<p>Direction: left, right, top, at the bottom, at the rear, at the front, side, edge, forefront, in the center</p>	

References

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