

Causal Analysis: This rhetorical mode allows the writer to analyze the cause and effect relationship of a given situation.

-Inductive pattern: cause to effect

-Deductive pattern: effect to cause

Causal Analysis Organization:

Introduction: include central event or situation as well as key terms that indicate causes or effects

1.) Cause 1/ Effect 1

2.) Cause 2/ Effect 2

3.) Cause 3/ Effect 3

Conclusion

*Order: Emphatic (weak→strongest) cause/effect OR chronological order

*Logic: Directly connect the relationship between each cause and effect

Cause=Why does this happen?

Effect=What happens as a result?

Classification: Classification is the process of grouping similar ideas or objects, the systematic arrangement of things into classes on the basis of shared characteristics. Any group of people, objects, or ideas that possesses shared characteristics can be classified.

-The object of analysis is always SINGULAR.

-The subject of classification is always PLURAL.

-Classification requires a PRINCIPLE.

Example:

SUBJECT: neighbors

PRINCIPLE: neighborhood involvement

CLASSES: friendly, meddlesome, private

Classification Format:

Introduction (thesis includes the principle and a listing of the types of classes found)

Subclass 1

Subclass 2

Subclass 3

Conclusion

*Principle: pick a SINGLE principle that clearly includes all of the classes within your topic and make it clear in your thesis statement

*Order: Build up to your strongest subclass (emphatic order)

*Word Choice: Avoid terms that are difficult to prove, like: good/average/bad/fast/slow

Compare and/or Contrast: To *compare* is to point out how two things are similar; to *contrast* is to stress how they are dissimilar.

Block Format: Subject by Subject- two subjects to be compared through separate examination

Introduction (includes thesis statement and sets up the comparison)

Subject 1

Characteristic 1

Characteristic 2

Characteristic 3

Subject 2

Characteristic 1

Characteristic 2

Characteristic 3

Conclusion

Alternating Format: Point by Point-alternate comparison through shared characteristics

Introduction (includes thesis statement and sets up the comparison)

Characteristic 1

Subject 1

Subject 2

Characteristic 2

Subject 1

Subject 2

Characteristic 3

Subject 1

Subject 2

Conclusion

*Purpose: determine whether the purpose is to inform or persuade your reader

*Equality: give both sides equal discussion

Definition: Definition means spelling out exactly what a word or phrase means. This rhetorical mode is especially useful for clarifying abstract concepts.

-Begin by describing the meaning of the term

-Expand your definition with etymological analysis

-Clarify the term by stating what it does or does not mean

-Expand your definition with examples

Definition Format:

Introduction

-The thesis should place the subject (*democracy*) in a class (*is a form of government*) with characteristics (*in which constituents elect representatives to manage society*).

Examples

Etymology

Lexical definition (meaning of a term in common language)

- *Word Choice: Do not use the term being defined as part of a definition (circular definition).
- *Examples: Use specific details and examples until you have answered the question "What is it?"
- *Order: Emphatic or chronological order works best

Description: The description essay attempts to recreate an object, person, event, etc. for the reader through the use of specific detail.

- Objective: unemotional description of a subject relying on factual data and visual description
- Subjective: conveys more feeling through sensory details and figurative language

Description Format:

Introduction

- include a vivid description using specific images and details to focus on a single, dominant impression

Descriptive detail

Descriptive detail

Sensory detail

Conclusion

- *Language: use specific adjectives and avoid generic words (good, bad, ugly, boring, etc.)

Exemplification: This rhetorical mode is useful for discussing abstract ideas or generalizations. Writers use exemplification to explain, convince, or amuse. This mode is often combined with other rhetorical modes.

Exemplification Format:

Introduction (thesis that establishes the subject and controlling idea)

Example 1 with explanation of how it refers to the topic sentence

Example 2 with explanation of how it refers to the topic sentence

Example 3 with explanation of how it refers to the topic sentence

Conclusion

- *Clarity: use introductory and transition phrases when necessary
- *Order: move from more simple examples to more complex examples OR follow emphatic order

Narration: Narration is an event or series of events written to express a specific meaning or significance.

Narrative Format:

Introduction

- Thesis includes the background or setup of the event

Conflict: explanation of the problem(s) within the narrative

Struggle: how one deals with the conflict (may not be physical)

Outcome: resolution of the struggle

Meaning: moral or lesson learned from the story

- *Verb tense: maintain consistency throughout your work
- *Point of view: first person is appropriate for this rhetorical mode
- *Descriptive detail: include figurative language and sensory descriptions

Process Analysis: A process is a series of actions, functions, steps, or operations that bring about a particular end result. The chronologically ordered, interlocking steps of a process focus either on how something works or on how something is done.

- Informative: explains how something occurs or is done through key information
- Directive: tells the audience how to do something step-by-step

Process Analysis Outline:

Introduction (thesis states the specific objective)

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

Step 5

- *Sequence: Make sure the steps form a logic sequence.
- *Explain: Consider your reader to be uninformed.
- *Language: Use transitional words and phrases to clarify order.

Patterns of Organization:

Spatial: A spatial pattern of organization arranges information according to how things fit together in physical space; i.e., where one thing exists in relation to another. This pattern works well when a writer wishes to create a mental picture of something which has various parts distinguished by physical location.

Chronological: A chronological pattern of organization arranges information according to a progression of time, either forward or backward. When a topic is best understood in terms of different segments of time, a chronological format works well.

Emphatic: An emphatic pattern of organization arranges ideas in order of importance. Saving the most compelling ideas can have a compelling effect on the reader.

Sequential: A sequential pattern of organization is similar to a chronological pattern, but arranges information according to a step-by-step sequence that describes a particular process. Using a sequential pattern, each main section of information represents a main step that one would follow in the actual process.

Cause and Effect: This pattern is used to show the different causes and effects of various conditions. This pattern is particularly effective when writing a persuasive document in which the writer advocates some action to solve a problem, because it demonstrates important relationships between variables.

