

Rhetorical Modes of Organization

Description: fully describing a subject by offering sensory details to produce a dominant impression or mood, using emphatic rather than chronological order.

Narration: relating a series of meaningful events (plot) involving characters, setting, and a conflict that is brought to a crisis and produces insight about human existence.

Exposition

- Comparison/Contrast: exploring or evaluating the similarities and differences in two subjects with the purpose of drawing some insight or conclusion. The structural approach can be point-by-point or subject-by-subject.
- Division/Classification: breaking a subject into its components and discussing their significance to the whole (literary or film analysis) OR grouping the subject into unique or novel categories to gain a deeper awareness of the subject.
- Process Analysis: breaking a process into its component steps and presenting them in chronological order to teach the process to beginners.
- Definition: exploring or challenging the accepted meaning of a word or term to expand on, or define in a slightly different manner, the meaning of the word.
- Cause-Effect: analyzing the reasons for or consequences of an event.

Persuasion/Argument: stating a position on an issue, using evidence to support the main claim, and acknowledging opposing views while ultimately refuting them.

- Argument: discovery of the truth
- Persuasion: movement from conviction of truth to call to action