ORGANIZATION AS A CRITERION FOR ACADEMIC WRITING EVALUATION POSSIBLE PATTERNS OF ORGANIZATION IN EXPOSITORY WRITING

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Abstract: In order to ensure the clarity of expressed message in academic writing, writers not only need to be proficient in grammar and mechanics and have rich vocabulary stock, but also be able to sequence their ideas in such a way as to enhance readers' understanding. Different genres and subgenres of academic writing clearly require different approaches to the arrangement of ideas, or organizational patterns. This article substantiates the significance of organization in academic writing and provides three suggested organizational patterns for the narrative, descriptive, and process subgenres of expository academic writing.

Keywords: academic writing, expository, argumentative, organizational patterns, narration, description, process.

Basic Types of Academic Writing: Expository vs. Argumentative

In academic writing, "expository" and "argumentative" are the two types in the major classification of academic essays. Argumentative essay is aimed to convince the reader of the writer's chosen position. Thus, in an argumentative paper about compulsory vaccination, the writer would choose either to convince the reader that compulsory vaccination is better or that voluntary vaccination is better. Unlike it, an expository piece of writing explores various angles of a specific topic to provide information in an objective manner. An expository paper on the same topic of compulsory vaccination would either provide information on what compulsory vaccination is, its history, key principles, or neutrally compare it to voluntary vaccination, not aiming to change the reader's opinion as to whether compulsory or voluntary one is better. To sum up, the main difference between the expository and argumentative essays is that one is objective (expository) while the other is subjective (argumentative).

The table below summarizes the difference between the two types of academic writing:

Argumentative writing	Expository writing
Is either for or against a certain issue or opinion	Provides a neutral explanation or lists opinions on a certain issue
First-person pronoun can be used by the writer to refer to himself/herself	Third-person pronouns are common rather than first-person pronouns
Thesis statement contains argument of the writer	Thesis statement contains the topic that the writer means to develop
Is subjective	Is objective

Organization and its importance in evaluating essays

Any essay, irrespective of its type, is evaluated according to certain criteria. These criteria are referred to as *aspects of composition*.

Many writing instructors agree on the following aspects of composition as critical for multifaceted evaluation of students' writing.

- ***Content*** – the quality and relevance of the ideas contained in the writing;

- ***Organization (structure)*** – the sequence of ideas, complying with a certain logical, expected and clear order;

- ***Language*** – the range of grammar structures and lexis and the resulting clarity of the ideas;

- ***Mechanics and expression*** – no errors of technical kind in terms of grammar, syntax, spelling, capitalization and punctuation.

In different evaluation systems, the criterion of organization, or essay structure, is given quite high significance. Thus, for most international standard proficiency tests of English, the quality of the structure of writing, in this or that form (be it termed "coherence" or "structure"), gives the candidate up to 25% of the grade for writing. Teachers also pay a lot of attention to how well their students' essays are structured. Organization, they say, helps determine and follow the flow of a writer's thoughts and evaluate the overall quality and logic of thinking. This suggests that an essay is treated not just as a loose collection of facts and ideas. Instead, it should be centered on an overarching argument or topic (summarized in its thesis statement) that every part of the essay relates to.

The way a writer structures the essay is crucial to presenting his/her argument or idea coherently. A well-structured essay helps the reader follow the logic of the writer's ideas and understand the overall point.

Organization in expository writing

As stated above, expository writing is more objective and requires the writer to express the information of a non-argumentative kind. Obviously, this can be accomplished in a variety of ways, which generated multiple possible patterns for organizing such essays. Different sources suggest the following possible methods of development for either standalone expository paragraphs or essays: **narration**, **description**, **process**, **comparison/contrast**, **cause/effect**, **extended definition** and **classification**. Provided further herein are possible organizational patterns for narration, description and process as basic methods of organization of academic pieces of writing taught at the initial stages of academic writing instruction. We will use the basic triad of Introduction-Body-Conclusion as a starting point for designing specific organizational patterns.

Narration. Narration is the oldest and best-known form of verbal communication. It is, quite simply, the telling of a story from a particular point of view. The writer task is to engage the reader into the story at the very start and also make a point, which would express attitude to or evaluation of what has happened in the story. A suggested organizational pattern in the case of narration is as follows:

1. Introduction:

- Hook – an opening sentence or question to grab the reader's attention

- Setting the Scene – background information (time, place, characters) to set up the story

- Thesis Statement – writer's overall opinion about or lesson learned from the story (alternatively, the main point of the story)

2. Body paragraphs – two to four paragraphs with the following features:

- Chronological Order – a chronological structure, describing events in the order they occurred
 - Detailed Descriptions – vivid and sensory details to describe characters, settings, and events, making the story come alive for the reader
 - Dialogue – to add depth to characters and to advance the story, making it more dynamic and realistic
 - Climax – the most intense or crucial point of the story, where the main action or turning point occurs
 - Transitions – to guide the reader from one part of the story to the next (e.g., "At first", "Initially", "To begin with", "In the beginning", "After a while", "Later", "Next", "Then", "Soon", "Meanwhile", "In the meantime", "Finally", "Eventually", "At last", "In the end", "Ultimately").

3. Conclusion:

- Resolution – tying up any loose ends and resolving the main conflict
- Reflection – evaluating the significance of the events described, experience obtained and its impact
- Closing Statement – a final thought or a memorable closing sentence that leaves a lasting impression on the reader.

Description. A descriptive piece of academic writing is a type of essay that aims to provide a detailed, vivid, and sensory-rich description of a person, place, object, event, or experience. The goal is to create a clear and immersive picture in the reader's mind through the use of descriptive language and sensory details. A logical organizational pattern for a descriptive work is provided below:

1. Introduction:

- Lead-in – an engaging opening sentence (an interesting fact, quote, rhetorical question, vivid description) to grab the reader's attention
- Background Information – some context that will help the reader understand what the writer is describing.
- Thesis Statement – a clear statement of what the writer is going to describe and the purpose of the description (can as well include the writer's personal attitude or evaluation to the object described)

2. Body Paragraphs – two to four paragraphs with the following features:

 - Consistent Organizational Pattern – the order of description, which is usually either spatial (describing from one location to another), or chronological (describing events in the order they occurred), or that of importance (from most to least important or vice versa)
- Sensory Details – vivid sensory details to describe the subject that engage all five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch) to create a full and immersive experience for the reader
- Use of Figurative Language – similes, metaphors, and other figurative language to enhance the description and make it more engaging
- Transitions – to move from one step of the description to another (e.g., "Above", "Below", "Beyond", "Nearby", "On the other side", "In the distance", "To the left/right", "Around the corner")

3. Conclusion:

- Summary – restating the main points of the description without simply repeating what has already been said
- Reflection – a highlight of significance or impact of the object or phenomenon described; the writer's feelings associated with it

- Closing Statement – a final thought that would make the writing more memorable for the reader.

Process. Process writing, also known as "how-to" writing, explains the steps or stages involved in completing a particular task or process. The primary goal is to provide clear and detailed instructions so the reader can successfully follow them and achieve the desired outcome. The following organizational pattern outlines a logical sequence of its development:

1. Introduction:

- Hook & background – 2-3 catchy first sentences (a fact, quote, or anecdote about an interesting case when the process has been used)
- Thesis Statement – presenting the process the writer will be explaining and briefly outlining the steps involved with an overall evaluation by the writer (e.g., "simple", "complex", "unusual", "useful" etc.)

2. Body Paragraphs – two-three paragraphs with the following features:

- Sequential Order – a clear, logical sequence of steps, which is typically chronological with each step following the previous one in the order it needs to be completed
- Detailed Steps: each step is explained in sufficient detail and necessary information such as tools or materials needed, tips for success, and potential pitfalls to avoid
- Transitions – clear transitions between steps to guide the reader smoothly from one part of the process to the next (e.g., "Next", "Then", "After that", "Finally")

3. Conclusion:

- Summary of the Process – recollecting the main steps of the process and reinforcing the importance of following the steps in the correct order
- Final Tips – advice for successfully completing the process (account for common mistakes and ways to avoid them)
- Closing Statement – a concluding thought that reinforces the utility or benefits of the process.

Conclusion

In summary, this article has shed some light on the distinctive features of expository writing, which explains various facets of a topic in an objective manner, providing the reader with a comprehensive understanding without trying to influence their opinion. Unlike argumentative writing, its purpose is not presenting a case for or against a particular issue. The article has also provided a number of reasons why the organization of an essay plays an important part both when creating and assessing the works of academic writing.

The structure and organization of an essay play a crucial role in its clarity and coherence, whether it is expository or argumentative. A well-organized essay ensures that ideas are presented logically and that the reader can easily follow the writer's thought process. This emphasis on organization is reflected in the criteria used to evaluate academic essays, where aspects such as content, structure, language, and mechanics are critical for assessing the overall quality.

The article has also explored the organizational patterns for different types of writing, such as narration, description, and process essays, which highlights the diverse approaches one can take to effectively convey information or tell a story. Each type requires a specific method of development and a careful choice of transitions to maintain the flow of the narrative or exposition.

Ultimately, mastering the various forms of academic writing and their respective structures enhances a writer's ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively. Whether the goal is

to inform or persuade, the principles of good organization and detailed development are key to producing compelling and coherent essays.

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