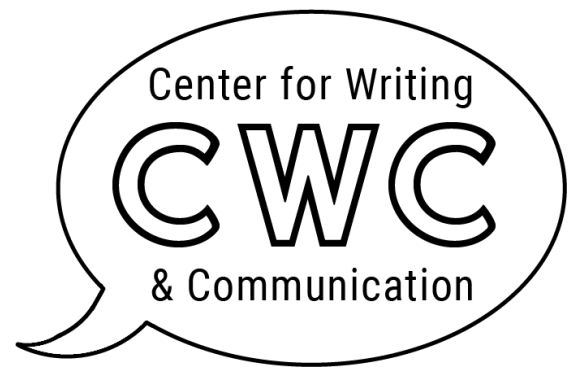


Organizational Patterns



Organization

Before you start working on your outline, think about how you want your main points to be organized. There are a few different organizational strategies that can help you lay out your information effectively.

Topical

A topical pattern works best when the information in your speech can be separated into different topics. The order of these topics is up to you, but should flow in a logical order and back up your thesis statement.

Chronological

Information that can be separated into different processes or various steps is best organized in a chronological pattern, with steps listed in order.

Spatial

A spatial pattern works well if you are trying to present information relative to space or if you want to create a visual for your audience.

Cause-effect

This pattern demonstrates to the audience how certain events affect an outcome. Use this pattern if you want to emphasize the results of different actions.

Problem-solution

If you want to persuade your audience to take action or to address a concern, present and explain the problem and then give a solution. This pattern may work best for persuasive speeches.