

Organization or Structure in Literature

All good writing has a system of organization or structure. Syntax is concerned with the sequence of words; organization is concerned with the sequence of paragraphs or stanzas. The following are some of the most commonly used methods of organization employed by writers of prose and poetry. Organization is sometimes called the movement of a passage of prose or poetry.

1. general to specific (deductive);
specific to general (inductive)
2. chronological (time sequence)
3. narrative (order of occurrence or order of telling)
4. association/memory (one object to another or by memories)
5. movement to lack of movement
(storm to calm or calm to storm)
6. sensory (i.e., dark to light or light to dark)
7. impressions: dominant to insignificant (or reverse)
8. spatial
(inside to outside; far to near; top to bottom; fall to rise;
flight and pursuit)
9. order of importance (most to least; least to most)
10. comparison and contrast (opposites)
11. cause and effect
12. question and answer
13. fact and example
14. definition
15. observation
16. analogy
17. imagery
18. function
19. process
20. allusion
21. emotions
22. abstract to concrete (or reverse)
23. past to present or present to past
24. seasons
25. journey or movement from place to place
26. disorder to order or order to disorder
27. gain to loss or loss to gain