

## TYPES OF PARAGRAPHS

### Organizations

The way you arrange your information depends on the kind of paragraph you are writing. For example, if you are telling a story, the logical organization of sentences will be chronological, that is, according to **time order**. If you are describing what your bedroom looks like, you will organize the details according to where they are located. In this case you will use **spatial order**. Finally, if you are discussing examples, causes, effects, or reasons, you will probably use **order of importance**. In this type of paragraph, you might begin with the least important item and end with the most important one.

### Analyzing Paragraph

**Read the following three paragraphs. Identify the method of organization used in each paragraph: time order, spatial order, or order of importance.**

1. My anthropology teacher likes a classroom layout that encourages interaction among students. He sets up the physical space so that it encourages us to interact with each other as much as possible. He likes to have his desk in the center of the room. That means that the students surround him and everyone can always see anyone else. As you walk into the room, the first thing you see is the enormous windows directly opposite the door. If you look to the left, you will see his bulletin boards, which take up the entire back wall of the room. To the right is the computer station with enough computers for ten students. Behind you as you face the windows are chalkboards. Above the boards, ready to be rolled down whenever we need them, are many different maps of the world. This type of classroom may not work for every teacher, but it works very well for Mr. Carter.
2. Homing pigeons have been known to fly for more than 1,600 kilometers in two days. How do they do it? Homing pigeons use a combination of navigational cues to find their way to distant places. One cue they use is the position of the sun. Using the sun as their compass, they compensate for its apparent movement, see both ultraviolet and polarized light, and employ a backup compass for cloudy days. Another navigational cue homing pigeons use is based on their mental map of the landmarks in their home areas. Even if a pigeon is taken hundreds of kilometers from its loft in total darkness it will depart almost directly for home when it is released. The most important cue homing pigeons use is the magnetic field of the Earth. Their magnetic compass enables homing pigeons to navigate on cloudy and foggy days.

3. The story of the Earth's ocean begins 200 million years ago when the Earth was just a ball of hot rock. At first, its surface was covered with erupting volcanoes, which released huge amounts of gas, including a gas made up of water particles, called water vapor. Eventually the Earth cooled, causing the water vapor to turn back into liquid water and fall from the skies as torrential rain. The rain lasted for thousands and thousands of years. Finally, rainwater filled all the hollows around the Earth's surface, forming oceans and seas. Today, water covers almost three-quarters of the Earth's surface and over 97 percent of all this water is stored in the Earth's four huge oceans: the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, and Arctic Oceans.

1. What is the method of organization used in paragraph one? What kinds of transitions were used?

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2. What is the method of organization used in paragraph two? What kinds of transitions were used?

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3. What is the method of organization used in paragraph three? What kinds of transitions were used?

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### **Practicing and Organizing**

- A. Think about the steps involved in planning a weekend trip to another city. Make list of the steps and arrange them in order.**

Steps:

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- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

Write a paragraph based on your list. Use transitions to connect your ideas.

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**B. What could someone learn about you from looking at your bedroom? Make a list of the items you want to describe and their placement in the room. Arrange your list according to spatial order.**

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Using spatial order, write a paragraph describing how your bedroom reflects your personality. Use transitions to connect your ideas.

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**C. If you could live in any time period (past, present, and future) which one would you pick? Choose one and make a list of your reasons. Arrange the list in order of importance. You can begin or end with your most important reason.**

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