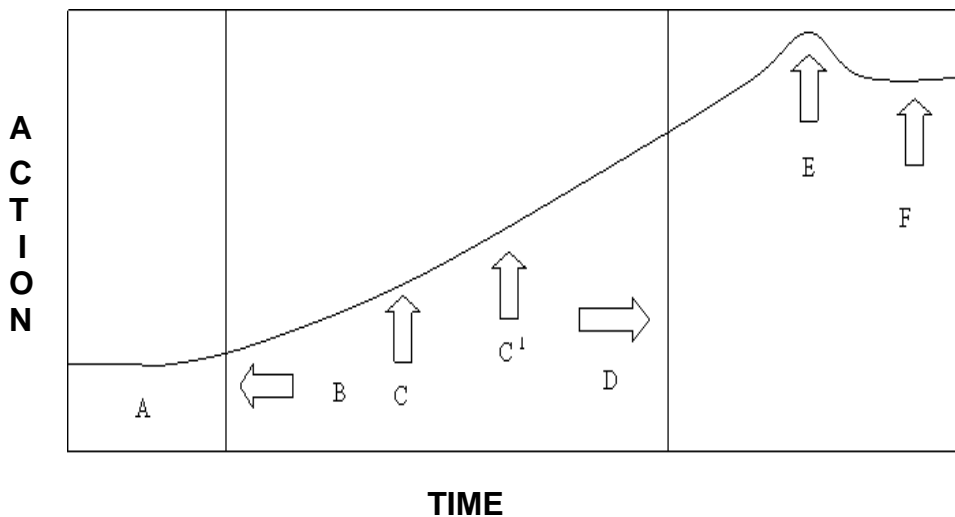


# Ten Patterns of Paragraph Development <sup>1</sup>

Develop paragraphs in a variety of patterns that reflect your thinking about the material. As you write the topic sentence and its supporting sentences, look for ways to structure your thinking. Where one author advances his or her material by narrating a series of events, another undertakes a physical description, and another undertakes an analysis of the topic. These patterns of paragraph development usually emerge in the process of revision. More than one pattern of development may be used in a series of paragraphs. The following story is my attempt to pull together all ten patterns of development. The attendant diagrams, lists, and tables should help you to plan out your strategy.

## ***Narration***

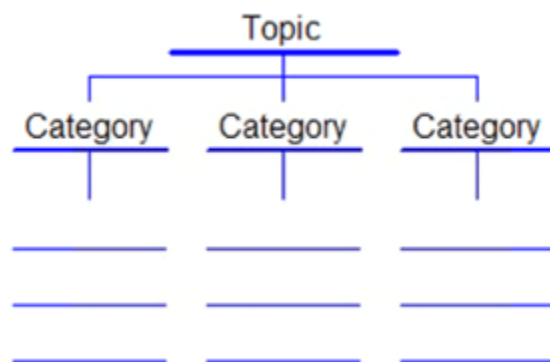
Around 2 a.m. something woke Charles Hanson up. He lay in the dark listening. Something felt wrong. Outside, crickets sang, tree-frogs chirruped. Across the distant forest floated two muffled hoots from a barred owl. It was too quiet. At home in New Jersey, the nights are filled with the busy, comforting sounds of traffic. Here, even starlight failed to penetrate the 80-foot canopy of trees the camper was parked beneath. It was the darkest dark he had ever seen. He felt for the flashlight beside his bunk. It was gone. He found where his pants were hanging and, as he felt the pockets for a box of matches, something rustled in the leaves right outside the window, inches from his face. He heard his wife, Wanda, hold her breath; she was awake, too. Then, whatever was outside in the darkness breathed, and the huge silence of the night seemed to come inside the camper, stifling them. Charles suddenly decided to pack up and go to a motel.



<sup>1</sup> The idea and some of the text of this worksheet came from Gerald Grow, PhD Division of Journalism Florida A&M University © 1999. <http://www.longleaf.net/ggrow/modes.html>

## Exemplification

This family was a victim of a problem they could have avoided-a problem that hundreds of visitors suffer each year. Even though many other visitors had found their stays enjoyable, they picked the wrong kind of park to visit. For instance, the hikers camped next to them loved the wild isolation of the wilderness around them. The youth group across the river had enjoyed a rousing midnight flashlight game. A botany expedition from the local community college had found amazing examples of rare and exotic flowers. But it just wasn't the kind of place the couple from New Jersey had in mind when they decided to camp out on a trip through Florida. If they had known about the different kinds of parks in Florida, they might have stayed in a place they loved.



## Definition

"Park" is difficult to define in Florida, because there are so many kinds of parks. Basically, parks are where families and friends go to have fun in the outdoors- to swim, picnic, hike, camp, walk the dog, play tennis, paddle a canoe, and, in some places take rides in miniature trains or swish down a waterslide. Florida has a rich variety of parks, ranging from acres of RVs ringed around recreation halls, to impenetrable mangrove wilderness. To make things more complicated, not all of them are called "parks," and even the ones called "parks" come in several varieties, so here are some guidelines.

An **X** is a **Y** that **Z** ... ex: a **dog** is a **canine** that's **domesticated**

## ***Classification and Division***

Parks in Florida are classified primarily under one categorization, the type of camping and lodging that is available. Many of the aspects of various parks follow from this category. For instance, the most prestigious park, Edward Ball, in Wakulla Springs is the only state park in Florida with lodges. Cabin camping can be had in all areas of the state, the north-east and west, south-east and west, and central regions. Cabins tend to be well-maintained and easy to access, with standard facilities, often including ovens and microwaves. "Bring your own" cabin camping, otherwise known as RV camping is next, with water and electric hookups. Finally, there is "classic" tent camping, which ranges from full facility (washrooms and pools) to primitive (dirt and rocks). There are three further divisions, depending on whether one intends to bring pets, large groups, or a youth-only group. These various types of parks can adapt to almost any vacation needs.

<b>Shelter type</b>	Lodges	Cabins	RV	Tent
<b>Feeling</b>	Luxurious	Comfortable	Livable	Primitive
<b>Food</b>	Catered meals	Microwaves	Grills & gas	Fire pits
<b>Facilities</b>	Whirlpools	Bathtubs	Showers	River
<b>Price</b>	\$\$\$\$\$	\$\$\$	\$\$	\$

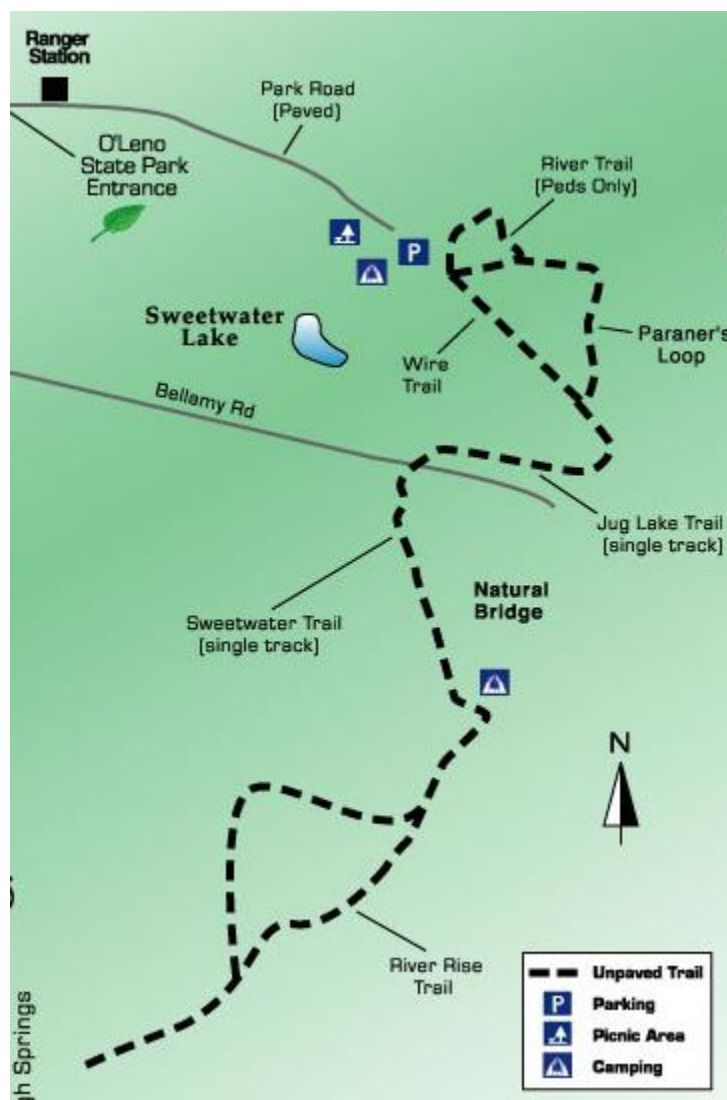
## ***Comparison and Contrast***

Two "parks" that indicate Florida's range of park offerings would be appropriate for very different travelers. Forests and the Santa Fe River dominate O'Leno State Park. In sharp contrast, Lloyd Beach State Recreation Area, near Fort Lauderdale, is dominated by the oily bodies of sun-worshippers who crowd into it every summer weekend. Where O'Leno gives so much quiet one can hear the leaves whispering, Lloyd Beach is a place of boisterous activity. Travelers can walk a few yards in O'Leno and pass beyond every sign of human civilization. When walking at Lloyd Beach, they have to be careful to step over the picnic baskets, umbrellas, jam boxes, and browning bodies. At night, O'Leno wraps itself with the silence of crickets and owls. Lloyd Beach is busy with fishermen till well past midnight. If fishing near town, or diving into the busy bustle of an urban beach is appealing, Lloyd Beach is the place to go. But if you want to stand at the edge of civilization and look across time into an older natural world, O'Leno is the park to visit.

<b>O'Leno State Park</b>	<b>Similarities/ Categories</b>	<b>Lloyd Beach Rec. Area</b>
Forests and Santa Fe River	Dominant attraction	Oily bodies of tanners
Hear the leaves whispering	Level of sound	Boisterous activity
Beyond human civilization	Human impact	People are everywhere
Crickets and owls	Night life	Fishing past midnight
Far in the wilderness	Distance to town	Very close to cities
Frontier days	Historical feeling	Very modern
Place to visit	Destination type	Place to go

## Description

O'Leno is a good example of a pet-friendly, "classic" tent camping state park in Florida. Surrounded by the tall, shaded woods of a beautiful hardwood forest, the Santa Fe River disappears in a large, slowly swirling, tree-lined pool. After appearing intermittently in scattered sinkholes, the river rises three miles downstream in a big boil, then continues on to meet the Suwannee and the sea. Nearby, stands of cypress mirror themselves in the still waters, walls of dense river swamp rise before the willing traveler, sudden sinkholes open in the woodlands-rich with cool ferns and mosses. Farther from the river, expanses of longleaf pinelands stretch across rolling hills. In the midst of this lovely setting are 65 campsites, 18 rustic cabins, and a pavilion for group meetings. A diving platform marks a good place to swim in the soft, cool waters of the Santa Fe, and canoeing up this river is like traveling backwards in time towards original, frontier Florida.



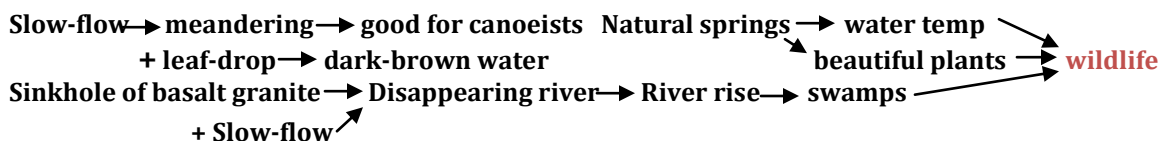
## Analogy

The fascinating history of O'Leno state park is a tale of seasons. In 1824, "Springtime," John Bellamy, a wealthy plantation owner, built the first federally funded Florida road through the area. Like the Santa Fe River after a hurricane, the road carried floods of travelers from Pensacola to St. Augustine, which set up campsites like the buds of May. In 1840, "Summertime," one of these campsites grew into a "wildflower" along the river. Almost immediately the pests of frontier America began infesting the town, as riverboat men called Henry Matier's pioneer town "Keno," for its riotous gambling district. The town came into season in its "Autumn" period in 1870 when Keno had a general store, a hotel, clinic, blacksmith and public livery stable. But signs of winter came in 1876, when a post office for the town was denied because of the gambling, and a name change to Leno convinced few. The "Winter" came in 1889, when nearby Mikesville prospered with churches, an academy, and several schools. The frost came in 1894, when the railroad from Lake City bypassed the town. "Leno" became farmland by 1900. However, a new "Spring" came in the 1930's, when the CCC carved out "O'Leno" state park, where now all of the seasons are enjoyed by thousands of visitors yearly.



## Cause and Effect

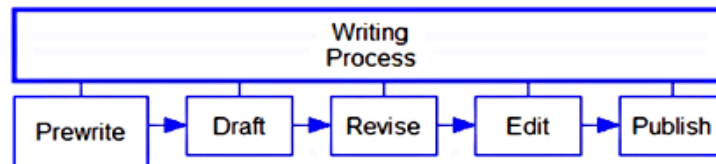
As previously mentioned, O'Leno State Park has an unusual river, the Santa Fe, which completely disappears into a large sinkhole and flows underground, reappearing three miles downstream in River Rise Preserve State Park. This strange phenomenon is caused by several factors. First of all, the Santa Fe River is an unusually slow-flowing river, which causes the river to meander, following the flow of the landscape. Second, the large sinkhole is especially well-suited to conveying water, consisting primarily of basaltic granite worn down by time into a perfect channel. Third, because the underground caves naturally lead downstream, water does not seep into the ground and dissipate. Finally, the river rise area is a swampy lake, with many channels for water to spread. This slow flow causes some of the Santa Fe's other unusual characteristics. Abundant leaf-drop from nearby trees, especially Bald Cypress, makes the river water a very dark-brown. Numerous springs flow up along the river, which spawn beautiful riverside fauna. The slow-moving nature of the water makes the river suitable for beginner-level canoeists and kayakers, and because of the springs, water temperature is always around 72 °F. These characteristics make it a perfect habitat for rare animals such as black bear, Florida panther, bobcat, and even manatees.



Cause → Effect

## Process Analysis

Getting to O'Leno State Park is just as much an adventure as being there, if you stay off the highways. From the old city center in Jacksonville, Florida, go north on John T Alsop Jr. Bridge, driving through historic neighborhoods until you get to the US-90 turnoff at E Beaver Street. Go left and continue on Highway 90 for a little less than an hour. This is a scenic roadway, one of the original trading routes from colonial times. Turn left at State Route 121 and follow it for 30 minutes. Here, you can see the best of Florida agriculture on either sides of the road. Take a slight right at State Route-238, where you will see green for the next 20 minutes. Then turn left onto US-441, and your destination, the verdant O'Leno State Park is only ten minutes away. (numbered driving directions)



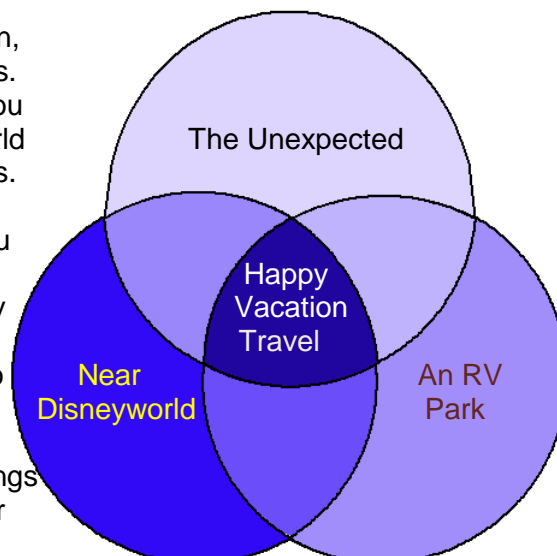
## Enumeration

So O'Leno State Park has many aspects to offer willing travelers:

- Natural night-time noises,
- A variety of fellow travelers,
- Safe, affordable family fun,
- Dog and cat-friendly facilities,
- Amazing, rugged, natural vistas,
- A colorful, interesting history,
- Diverse flora and fauna, and
- Even a pleasant drive to get there.

## Analysis

If you intend to find an ideal family vacation, understand where your greatest fun occurs. Happiness in travel comes almost when you least expect it, and being near Disney World may not guarantee a good time for the kids. Enjoying the RV parks is almost assured, but it's a different type of fun than what you find in the forest primeval. As mentioned before, many parks are available, and they have characteristics that are bound to suit almost any disposition, but it's important to have self-knowledge in addition to outside descriptions. Find out what to expect at [FloridaStateParks.org](http://FloridaStateParks.org), but to find what brings you happiness may be the purpose of your journey, not your destination.



## **How did it happen?**

In *narration* you develop the topic as a story, with important events usually arranged chronologically (as they occurred in time): for instance, an exciting basketball game.

## **How does it look, sound, feel, smell, taste?**

In *description* you use sensory details to give a clear impression of a person, place, thing, or feeling, such as a friend, a favorite room, a building, or an experience.

## **What are examples of it or reasons for it?**

The pattern of *illustration* or *support* suggests development with a few examples of the topic (three television soap operas) or with reasons for doing something (majoring in English).

## **What is it? What does it encompass, and what does it exclude?**

These questions lead to *definition*: specifying what the topic is and is not to give a precise sense of its meaning. Abstract terms, such as justice or friendship, especially need defining.

## **What are its parts or characteristics?**

Using the pattern of *division* or *analysis*, you separate a subject into its elements and examine the relations between elements.

## **What groups or categories can it be sorted into?**

*Classification* involves separating a large group (such as cars) into smaller groups (subcompact, compact, and so on) based on characteristics of individual items (size of car).

## **How is it different or similar to another thing?**

With *comparison and contrast* you point out the similarities and differences between ideas, objects, people, places, and so on: the differences between two similar computer systems.

## **Is it comparable to something more familiar to readers?**

This question leads to *analogy*, an extended comparison of unlike subjects. Analogy is often used to explain a topic that may be unfamiliar to readers (for instance, the structure of a government) by reference to a familiar topic (the structure of a family).

## **Why did it happen, or what results did it have?**

With *cause-and-effect analysis*, you explain why something happened or what its consequences were or will be, or both: the causes and effects of a change in the climate.

## **How do you do it, or how does it work?**

In *process analysis* you explain how something happens (how a plant grows)

Taken from - Fowler, H. and Aaron, J. *The Little, Brown Handbook* (2002) pp. 46-48.