**Academic Writing: Choosing Pattern to Fit Purpose**


First determine: What is my purpose for writing?
(Sometimes it is a combination, but usually one stands out as the primary purpose.)

## **Inform**     or     **Explain/Instruct**     or     **Persuade**


Then consider: What is/are the best pattern(s) of organization to use, based on my purpose for writing?

Also consider: When I look at the evidence I have, which of the patterns of organization is the clearest, strongest way to present it to my reader?

Use this chart, or something like it, as part of pre-writing and drafting to organize your evidence to support your main point.


|  | **Purpose for Writing** | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | Inform | Explain/Instruct | Persuade |
| **Patterns of Organization** |  |  |  |
| Definition |  |  |  |
| Classification |  |  |  |
| Generalization and Examples |  |  |  |
| Cause and Effect |  |  |  |
| Compare and Contrast |  |  |  |
| List |  |  |  |
| Sequence |  |  |  |
| Summary |  |  |  |