Organizational Patterns

Many organizational patterns are available to you, but not all patterns complement all topic choices. As an example, you would not choose to speak about your favorite type of music while using the spatial pattern of organization. In order to solidify your understanding of pattern and topic pairings you should complete this activity with a group of your classmates.

Form groups of five so that each member can represent one style of organization. Each member will draw out an assigned topic alongside an appropriate organizational pattern. You should not share your topic or pattern of organization with your group mates. Once all members have received their particular assignments, everyone should take about 15 minutes to write up a quick speech according to their respective pattern of organization. It is not necessary to memorize the speech—we are concentrating on structure here.

After each person has presented his or her speech, certain things should be discussed:
- Which organizational pattern was used?
- Which structural characteristics helped to expose the organizational pattern that was used?
- What, if anything, muddled the clarity of the chosen pattern and why?
- What are at least three more topics that are suitable to the particular organizational pattern that was used?
- Within your group, tease out any questions and/or confusion about the specific organizational pattern.

*Topic and organizational pattern assignments can be found on the next page

Please cut these into strips and fold them before the drawing.

Group member #1
Topic→ Talk about how your interest for a particular style of music came about.

Organizational Pattern→ Chronological **(p. 170, *The Speaker's Primer*)**

Group member #2
Topic→ Talk about the importance of the use of space in the game of basketball.

Organizational Pattern→Spatial **(p. 172, *The Speaker's Primer*)**

Group member #3
Topic→ Talk about the causes and effects of budget cuts on your college campus.

Organizational Pattern→ Cause-Effect **(pp. 170–171, *The Speaker's Primer*)**

Group member #4
Topic→ Talk about ways/methods to study more effectively.

Organizational Pattern→ Topical **(pp. 172–173, *The Speaker's Primer*)**

Group member #5
Topic→ Talk about how children are becoming less and less active, which is increasing rates of childhood obesity.

Organizational Pattern→ Problem-Solution Pattern **(pp. 171–172, *The Speaker's Primer*)**