

BASES OF COMPARISON, OUTLINING, WORKING THESIS

ESSAY STRUCTURES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ASSESS possible ways of organizing information;
- PRIORITIZE information;
- CHOOSE important quotations and examples;
- ILLUSTRATE RELATIONSHIPS between ideas, and between ideas and evidence;
- CONSTRUCT a template to guide the writing of an essay;
- MANAGE time resources.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- "Essay Outline Assignment Description and Criteria" (emailed to you at the beginning of the term);
- Sample Essay Outlines and Commentaries ("Links/Docs" page → "Links to all Tip Sheets and Commentaries")

SKETCH OUTLINE

- "Headlines"

The "sketch outline" is an "essential elements" model that shows you:

- what your fundamental **organizational structure** will be.
- your **bases of comparison**.

WORKING OUTLINE

The "Working Outline" is a "road map" model that shows you:

- "Movements" of the essay (like verses of a song);
- Key illustrative examples and quotations;
- The **RELATIONSHIP AMONG** your essay's movements and their relationship to the thesis.

COMPARING APPLES TO APPLES

COMPARISON: APPLE
CONTRAST: GREEN



COMPARISON: APPLE
CONTRAST: RED



VALID

Bases of Comparison

Apple is a FRUIT.
Orange is a FRUIT.

Apple is CRUNCHY.
Orange is MUSHY.

Apple is ROUND.
Orange is HARD TO RHYME.

USE MATCHING CATEGORIES



BEGIN WITH THE TOPIC: KEYWORDS

DISCUSS the role of passion in “Story A” and “StoryB.”

“Discuss” in two stories means to talk about A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN the two stories.

“Role” suggests that PASSION actually DOES something in the stories. What does it DO?

How does PASSION appear in the stories? Do they actually use the word, “passion?” What other ways do they communicate passion? What *is* PASSION, anyway?

So, passion in **THESE STORIES**: for it or against it? the same or different?

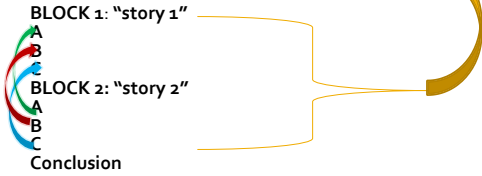
ESSAY AS TEACHER

ASK:

What format will communicate my ideas to my audience the most **efficiently** and **clearly**?

SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES: Block 1

Introduction
 Thesis: WHAT: Bases of comparison A, B, C.
 SO WHAT: Why they are important. What they tell us about the texts, their concerns, their techniques.

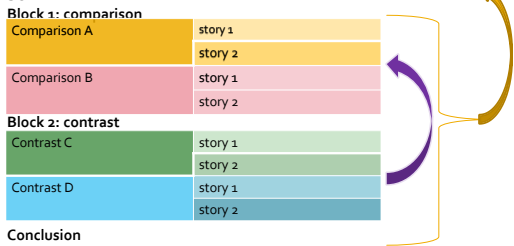


Block 1: PASSION

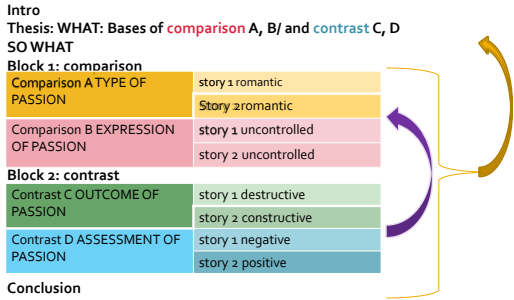
BLOCK 1: "story 1"
 A **ROMANTIC** (type of passion)
 B **UNCONTROLLED** (expression of passion)
 C **NEGATIVE** (assessment of passion)
BLOCK 2: "story 2"
 A **PLATONIC** (type of passion)
 B **CONTROLLED** (expression of passion)
 C **POSITIVE** (assessment of passion)
 Conclusion

SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES: Block 2

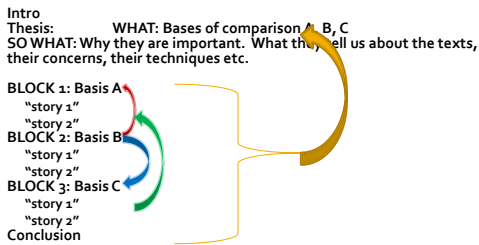
Intro
 Thesis: WHAT: Bases of comparison A, B/ and contrast C, D
 SO WHAT



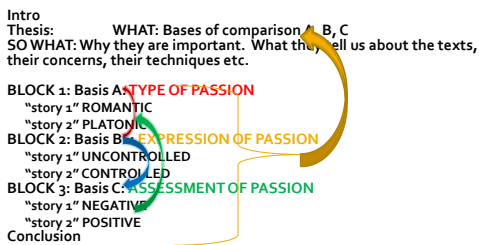
SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES: Block 2



SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES: Alternating



SAMPLE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES: Alternating



NEXT STEP: WORKING THESIS

WORKING THESIS = a preliminary statement that you will use to guide you as you interact with the text and organize your materials. It reminds you:

- What the TOPIC is;
- What types of EVIDENCE you should be gathering;
- What you want to ARGUE.

2 PARTS OF THE THESIS: WHAT

- WHAT = the EVIDENCE you will use to make your case; your BASES OF COMPARISON
 - RHYTHM/RHYME (formal elements)
 - ATTITUDE
 - TONE

2 PARTS OF THE THESIS: SO WHAT

- SO WHAT = how your BofC illuminate the topic, in this case, the ROLE OF PASSION IN ART
 - RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN formal structure and passion
 - POEMA: formal structures shape the energy of passion to produce beauty
 - POEM B: passion pushes against formal structures to create new forms of beauty

A WORKING THESIS

Although they have different [formal qualities](#), [tones](#), and [attitudes](#) toward passion, both poems illustrate that the role of passion is to [challenge conventions in order to create beauty out of chaos](#).
