Chapter 11: Authors' Writing Patterns

Summary Chart of Pattern Clues

This chart summarizes many of the clue words and signals associated with each pattern. The clue words are italicized. Some of them appear in main idea sentences; others are used throughout a paragraph.

1. List Pattern
- *and, also, too*
- *another, moreover, besides, in addition, further, finally*
- *first, second, third. . . ;* 1, 2, 3. . . ; a, b, c. . .
- bullets (•), asterisks (*)
- words that announce lists, such as *ways, types, kinds, categories, classes, groups, parts, characteristics, features*, etc.

2. Sequence Pattern
- *first, second, third. . .*
- *now, then, next, finally*
- 1, 2, 3. . .; a, b, c. . .
- *process, steps, series, stages, phases, progression, spectrum, continuum*
- *before, prior to, earlier, during, while, when, at the same time, later, after, last, at last*
- *since* (a certain time), *until* (a certain time)
- dates and words that refer to time, such as *the 20th century, during the Civil War era, in the coming decade,* and so forth

3 Cause-Effect Pattern

- <u>Cause</u>:

  the reason(s)
  the causes(s)
  because, since
  is due to (cause)
  was caused by (cause)
  (cause) *led to*
  resulted from (cause)

- <u>Effect</u>:

  thus   *hence*
  the result(s)   *as a consequence*
  the effect(s)   *on that account*
  the outcome   (effect) *was caused by*
  consequently   *resulted in, results in* (effect)
  the final product   (effect) *is due to*
  therefore   (effect) *resulted from*
  as a result   *from this we see*

<u>Questions that indicate cause-effect</u>:
- *What causes* (effect)? (Answer will be the cause.)
- *Why does* (effect) *occur?* (Answer will be the cause.)
- *What is the reason for* (effect)? (Answer will be the cause.)
- *How can* (effect) *be explained*? (Answer will be the cause.)
- *What does* (cause) *lead to*? (Answer will be the effect.)

4. Comparison-Contrast Pattern

- <u>Comparison</u>:

  same, similar, similarly, likewise, alike
  in the same manner , in the same way
  both, also
  resembles, parallels
  words that compare (adjectives that describe
  comparisons), such as *safer, slower, lighter,*
  more valuable, less toxic, etc.

- <u>Contrast</u>:

  different, difference, unlike, dissimilar, opposite
  in contrast, however, nevertheless whereas
  but, yet, rather than, nonetheless, while
  although, though, instead of, conversely
  as opposed to, versus
  some, others; on the one hand, on the other hand
  words that have opposite meaning (such as *men* and *women* or
  rich and *poor*)

5. Definition Pattern
- *the term . . ., the word. . .*
- terms in bold print, italics, or color
- definitions (watch for punctuation that sets off a definition, a definition in quotations marks or italics)
- *is defined as, means, refers to, is referred to as, is, is known as, is called*
- a synonym that comes after *in other words, that is (i. e.*), *by this we mean, or*
- examples that illustrate the definition or meaning of a term