

Deductive Organizational Strategies

Deduction comes from Latin, meaning "to lead down." In writing, deductive reasoning and organization is based on the idea that an author presents a basic truth or belief, what we call a premise, and then provides specific evidence that supports or proves that belief.

The premise is the author's main argument, and we often refer to it as a thesis statement.

In deductive organization, the premise is always presented near the beginning of the essay. It is clear from the start what the author is arguing, and the how the evidence presented supports that premise.

The general pattern of a deductive essay is:

generalization → specific evidence → conclusion

Most American academic writing (excluding scientific writing) uses a deductive organization.

Notes:

Inductive Organizational Strategies

Induction comes from the Latin, meaning "to lead into." It can be seen as the opposite of deductive organization. Inductive organization starts by presenting evidence that leads to a conclusion.

In general, the pattern in inductive organization is:

specific details → general conclusion/thesis

Because of the nature of the specific details in inductive arguments, authors must bridge the inductive leap, the gap that occurs when moving between the details and the conclusion, or thesis, the author is trying to reach. In other words, within the essay the author must interpret and analyze the evidence for the readers and connect it explicitly for the readers.

The important thing to remember in inductive organization is to ensure you have enough evidence to lead you audience to the same conclusion you have reached.

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