

## Patterns of Organization

There are two basic ways to organize a comparison essay—the block method and the point-by-point method.

BLOCK METHOD	POINT-BY-POINT METHOD
Present one subject and all its points of comparison. Then do the same for the second subject. Discuss each subject completely without interruption.	Include both subjects in one point of comparison before moving on to the next point of comparison.
<p><b>Paragraph 1: Introduction</b>  <b>Thesis:</b> There are two solid options for data storage, each with pros and cons.</p> <p><b>Paragraph 2: Cloud data storage</b>  cost  ease of use,  reliability</p> <p><b>Paragraph 3: Traditional data storage</b>  cost  ease of use,  reliability</p> <p><b>Paragraph 4: Conclusion</b></p>	<p><b>Paragraph 1: Introduction</b>  <b>Thesis:</b> There are two solid options for data storage, each with pros and cons.</p> <p><b>Paragraph 2: Cost</b>  cloud data storage  traditional data storage</p> <p><b>Paragraph 3: Ease of use</b>  cloud data storage  traditional data storage</p> <p><b>Paragraph 4: Reliability</b>  cloud data storage  traditional data storage</p> <p><b>Paragraph 5: Conclusion</b></p>

No matter which method of organization you choose, the information in a comparison essay must be presented in the same order. In the block-method example, notice that in Paragraph 2, all the important information about cloud data storage is presented (cost, ease of use, and reliability). The supporting information in Paragraph 3 also includes these three aspects in the same order with the focus on traditional data storage.

In the point-by-point method, the points of development are also cost, ease of use, and reliability. Each paragraph contains information about both storage systems.

### ACTIVITY 1 | Comparing methods of organization

Review the two methods of organizing a comparison essay. Consider the advantages and disadvantages of both. Work with a partner to answer the questions.

1. Which method, block or point-by-point, requires more paragraphs?
2. Which is likely easier to organize and write?
3. As a reader, in which method are the points of comparison easier to follow?