

English 092 Unit 1.2

Methods of Developing Paragraphs and Essays: A Quick Reference

Before you begin writing think about your purpose. Are you trying to explain how an accident happened, give someone tips on how to buy a used car, point out the differences between two friends, or argue for stronger penalties for impaired drivers? Consider which method of development is best for making your points. The methods of development listed below provide approaches to help you arrange your ideas clearly.

Purpose	Method of Development	Writing Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To entertain or amuse To tell how something happened 	Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin with a clear idea of what the main point of your story is Provide clear descriptive details of character and setting to help the reader visualize the events Stick with your main story line Relate the events in the order they happened (chronological order)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide instructions for doing something explain how something works 	Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your topic sentence or thesis should make it clear what you are going to explain. Example: Finding a good used car involves researching different models, knowing where to find good vehicles, and getting a thorough mechanical inspection Present steps in logical or chronological order Use a variety of transitions to move smoothly between points.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> give reasons why something happened Show the results of some event or actions 	Cause and Effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide whether you are going to deal with cause or effect and make this clear in your introduction If you are explaining why something happened or the reasons for you are looking at the causes If you are looking at the results of some action or event, then you are focusing on effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To show the differences and similarities between two things 	Compare and Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide on a pattern to use to make your comparison: point-by-point or subject-by-subject (block) method Choose two things that you can reasonably compare: e.g., professional and amateur sports not boxing and ballet Make sure the comparison offers a unique slant on the differences or similarities.

Purpose	Method of Development	Writing Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain something by dividing it into types, groups, or categories 	<p>Classification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the categories you are grouping are of roughly equal value. Example: Types of athletes: pros, competitive amateurs, recreational, armchair Types of restaurants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain the characteristics or qualities of something 	<p>Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for the qualities that something is made up of. Think of the qualities your ideal of something—a great athlete, city, leader, teacher, etc.—would have. Example: A great restaurant will have delicious food, a distinct atmosphere and professional service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use examples to support the point you are making about your topic 	<p>Illustration/ example</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back up your point with specific examples or situations that illustrate or provide evidence for your topic sentence or thesis Example: Although the US is an economic giant, Japan is still the world leader in automobiles, consumer electronics, and robotics.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create a clear impression in the reader's mind of a person, place, object, or situation. 	<p>Description</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to give the reader a clear impression of the person, place, thing, or situation you are describing. Appeal to the senses—consider how something looks, smells, tastes, feels, and sounds.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To argue for or against an idea 	<p>Persuasion or Argument</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide on your approach: Make your position clear at the beginning and then spend the rest of the paragraph or essay providing support for your position. Recognize the other side of the argument, then strike it down. e.g., Sure professional athletes are skilled and talented, but why should a second rate defenseman earn more than a brain surgeon?

Methods of Development

Methods of development are patterns of organization that writers use to organize their ideas about a topic. Although a lot of the writing you will come across does not rely solely on one method of development, an understanding of these patterns will help you organize your ideas and get you writing more quickly.

- Narration
- Process
- Classification
- Division
- Comparison and Contrast
- Cause and Effect
- Example/Illustration
- Description
- Persuasion

Exercise: In each of the following paragraphs, state the writer's purpose, point of view, and the method of development.

1. Great Action Flicks

Hollywood continues to produce a constant stream of expensive, big effects action movies, but most of these lack the ingredients of a great film. For a start, any film worth watching needs good actors who can deliver their lines convincingly. The wooden monotonous of many muscle bound heroes have sunk many an action film. Secondly, action films today need to have truly spectacular special effects. But these need to be creatively developed, rather than just featuring an endless series of computer-generated explosions and battles. The last and probably most important ingredient is a convincing screenplay. If the audience can't buy into the story, neither Arnold nor the Lucas Film Special Effects Team can save the film. Yet, when a good story is supported by solid acting and dazzling special effects, we can't help but be seduced by the magic of Hollywood.

Purpose: _____

Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

2. My First Apartment

My first apartment was a third floor walk-up on a busy street in downtown Vancouver. The building was a faded brown characterless box. My apartment was down a dimly-lit narrow hallway covered in worn fifties style dark green carpeting. When I say apartment, I really mean room, because there was just one small square room with a tiny bathroom. The air was humid and musty. One small window provided a perfect view of the brown stucco wall of the building next door. A small "avocado" coloured stove and fridge highlighted the kitchen which consisted of a few shabby painted wood cupboards that projected into the room. Along one wall was an older pale blue sofa, which was also my bed. A small red card table with two chairs served as my kitchen and dining room table. A few feet away, several large cardboard moving boxes contained all of my clothes and personal possessions. The one bright spot was a large poster of a winter mountain scene which I had hung on the dull gray wall. It helped me survive the eight months I called this dump home.

Purpose: _____

Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

3. The Misuse of Credit Cards

While credit cards are convenient and easy to use, the misuse of credit cards can lead to serious problems. Today, many consumers are spending beyond their ability to pay. This often leads to serious financial difficulties or even personal bankruptcy. One of the reasons for consumer over-spending is aggressive promotion by credit card companies. Fancy commercials and advertisements are everywhere and they create the image that using credit cards is easy and trendy and gives people class. They offer tempting low introductory rates and other benefits. Instead of worrying about payment with high interest rates, card users tend to get carried away and find immediate satisfaction in fulfilling their desires. Incredibly, many people seem unaware that credit cards are not free; people may not feel like they are spending money, but they are creating debts that have to be paid. They often lose track of how much they are spending. And they don't realize how quickly many little purchases can add up until they receive their next credit card bill. To avoid problems with credit card debt, people need to become educated in personal financial management. Unfortunately, this kind of information isn't as easily available to consumers as credit card advertisements that promote the freedom and benefits of credit card use.

Purpose: _____
Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

4. My New Career

The morning of my big job interview started like any other. I awoke with a good night's sleep under my belt determined and confident in getting a new job as a swamper for Williams Moving and Storage. The night before the interview, I practiced moving the furniture from one end of the house to the other. My roommates thought I was crazy. Arising from bed, I felt stronger, like a rodeo bull waiting to get out of his cage. Sitting at the kitchen table eating my Wheaties, I started looking at the furniture around me in a new light. The hide-a-bed in the living room was a 300 pound finger-eating monster opening and closing snapping at me. Looking out onto the covered patio, the wicker furniture was floating, almost drifting by itself to the front door. Then and there I knew that moving furniture was my calling. Walking to the front door, I gave the hide-a-bed a good stiff kick.

Purpose: _____
Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

5. Executing an Ollie

Being able to ollie on a skateboard—jumping in such a way that the skateboard sticks to your feet—is not as hard as most people think, as long as you learn some basic steps. The first step is the positioning of your feet. Your back foot should be on the tail of your board. Meanwhile, your front foot should be just behind the screws of the front trucks (wheels). You should be standing mostly on your toes, with your heel and toes pointed outwards. Once your feet are in proper position, start to bend your knees to

approximately ninety degrees and prepare to jump. There are three things you now need—the three C's: comfort, control, and confidence. Without these you will be eating a lot of pavement. Now kick down and back with your back foot so that the board pops into the air. Immediately afterward, slide the front foot up towards the nose to level out the board. Finally, bend your knees again and prepare for impact. The only step remaining is practice and lots of it. So, if doing an ollie doesn't sound so tough, wait until you actually try one.

Purpose: _____
Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

6. **Tattoo You**

Having worked in a tattoo studio for the past year, I have come to recognize three types of annoying customers that invariably stroll through the door. The first is the Time Waster. Generally the Time Waster is not serious about getting a tattoo now, or probably ever, but nevertheless is hell-bent on wasting the artist's time with a barrage of inane questions. They often talk big and have grandiose plans for the ultimate backpiece. But when it comes time to put down a deposit for the work, they suddenly say something like, "That sounds great. I'll be back in six months when my next student loan comes in." Meanwhile, the artist has started drawing the design while three serious clients went to another less "busy" studio. The next type of annoying client is the Know-it-all. These people usually have a friend with a tattoo, or maybe even a small one themselves, and therefore consider themselves to be experts on the subject. They contradict the artist on everything, and insist on using words they've heard in a movie because they think it makes them sound in the know. What they don't realize, however, is that those in the know would never use a word like "tatty" to describe the art. Finishing up the list of types of annoying tattoo studio customers is the Bargain Hunter. The Bargain Hunters clearly believe that when having a design committed to their skin for life, getting the lowest price is the top priority. Bargain Hunters often have a "buddy" from some disreputable source—like their kitchen table—who "would do it much cheaper." What all these people don't seem to realize is that tattooing is a serious art form that artists dedicate their lives to learning and executing. A little respect and some manners would be appreciated.

Purpose: _____
Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

7. **Time to Get Tough with Drunk Drivers**

It's time for the courts to crack down on drunk drivers. Often even repeat offenders get small fines when caught driving with alcohol levels above the legal limit. But, drunk driving is a serious crime and should be treated as such. Drunk drivers cause most serious accidents, but all situations involving drunk drivers have the potential for serious consequences. Drunk drivers threaten the safety of everyone on the road; cars are weapons, and drunk driving is a form of assault. People should be responsible for their actions, and if they choose to drink and drive then they should pay the price. Often the

victims of accidents caused by drunk drivers suffer long after these drivers have "paid their debt to society". The law should be changed so that all cases of drinking and driving would result in jail time and vehicles would be confiscated. Then perhaps more people would think twice about drinking and driving.

Purpose: _____

Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

8. **Building Great Pecs**

Having a great looking chest is easier than most people think. It starts with a few simple steps. First, begin with a flat bench press. Start with approximately 60% of your body weight. While lying on your back on the bench, grab the bar firmly with both hands so they line up with the ends of your shoulders. Push the bar up to release it from the holder and extend your arms. Avoid fully locking your arms. Then, bring the bar down slowly until it touches your chest. Push the bar back up at twice the speed it was brought down. Do ten repetitions and then take a two-minute rest. This completes one set. Add more weight if needed and complete three more sets. Within several weeks, your chest muscles will increase dramatically in size and you'll be ready for the beach.

Purpose: _____

Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

9. **Transportation Choices**

North Americans clearly prefer driving their own cars to using public transport. In many ways, the desire to own a car is easy to understand. True, cars are expensive to buy and run. Car payments, gas, insurance, and repairs can cost thousands per year. But people love the convenience of cars that they see as an expression of personal freedom. Cars provide a comfortable small personal space in which people can drink coffee and listen to music. Most car owners give little thought to the damage to the environment all these cars are doing even as they sit in traffic complaining about too many cars on the road. Unlike car owners, bus riders are prepared to make some sacrifices to save money. Bus schedules are not always convenient and buses don't take you to your door. Standing on a jerky bus is no fun either. Riders can, however, take some small pleasure in the knowledge that using a bus is the environmentally responsible way to get around town. Unfortunately, until there is a huge change in the attitude of car owners towards using public transit, cars will continue to rule the roads and our environment and our cities will pay the price.

Purpose: _____

Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

10. **Plastic People**

Today, men and women of all ages undergo surgery to achieve the looks they desire. Cosmetic surgery is so common that to some it is a lifestyle. Some of the most popular procedures are breast implants, liposuction, facelifts, and hair transplants. Because many prefer fuller, bigger breasts, a good number of women from all walks of life undergo the

painful and costly procedure of breast implants. Even though the risks are well known, many still take their chances. And what goes better with bigger breasts than a flat abdomen? Liposuction is a quick fix for those who find good diet and exercise ineffective and time consuming. Another popular procedure for both men and women is the surgical facelift. This process promises men and women a younger and fresher look. For men who are worried about baldness, there is hair replacement. Thanks to medical advances, men can avoid the harsh reality of balding by undergoing a long lasting hair transplant procedure. Many value plastic surgery even though it's costly and can have a number of negative side effects. In spite of the many plastic surgery disasters, those obsessed with having the perfect face and body will keep the business alive and well.

Purpose: _____
Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

11. Synthetic Engine Oils: Worth the Price?

Drivers who want the best protection for their engines will find that synthetic oil offers several advantages over conventional oil. First of all, it's better year round. Synthetic oil flows freely at all temperatures and circulates immediately at start up. Conventional oil thickens at low temperatures and takes time to warm up. Synthetic oil is also more stable at high temperatures, making it more dependable in hot weather. Second, synthetic oil is much cleaner than conventional oil. It contains the finest detergents, rust inhibitors, and other additives that reduce friction and make the engine run smoother and cleaner. Third, and perhaps most important, is that synthetic oil lasts longer. Conventional oil must be changed every three months or 5000 kilometres, whereas synthetic oil can last up to six times longer. Only the filter has to be changed over this period of time. Even though synthetic oil is much more expensive, it's worth the extra cost if you value the life and performance of your engine.

Purpose: _____
Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

12. How Drugs Can Destroy People's Lives

Drug addiction is a serious health issue that affects addicts, their families and society. First of all, drug addiction has severe physical effects on the addict's body. Drug users can experience many physical symptoms including sickness, fevers, sweats and shakes, loss of appetite, and weight loss. They also face the danger of contracting serious diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis, and other communicable diseases, not to mention the risk of overdose. Families and friends of drug addicts are inevitably also affected by their addiction. Addiction can lead to serious financial problems, loss of trust, and eventually family breakup and divorce. Society as well pays a cost: crime rates go up, and more security and hospital care is needed which are all paid for by taxpayers. Drug addiction is a destructive way to live. Maybe more would be done about it if it were looked at not just as a problem that addicts face alone, but as something that affects society as a whole.

Purpose: _____
Method of Development: _____ **Point of View:** _____

Answer Key

1. Division	3rd person
2. Description	1st
3. Cause/Effect	3rd
4. Narrative	1st
5. Process	2nd
6. Classification	1st
7. Persuasive	3rd
8. Process	2nd
9. Compare/contrast	3rd
10. Illustration/example	3rd
11. Compare/contrast	3rd/2nd
12. Cause/effect	3rd