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Understanding the Structure of an Essay

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Paragraphs and essays are often organized using the following common patterns:

- General to particular: This is the most common pattern of organization in which the topic sentence makes a general point and t
- Particular to general: In this pattern, specific details lead to a generalization.
- Chronological: In chronological organization, the details are ordered according to the passage of time.
- Spatial: In this pattern, the details are presented according to their relationship in space.
- By extremes: In this pattern of organization, the details may be presented from most important to least important or from most e

The Review Materials below will help you increase your understanding of these concepts. Then, move on to the Activities section to t

Review Materials				
1 Watch 1: General to Particular Organization	View			
2 Watch 2: Particular to General Organization	View			
3 Watch 3: Chronological Organization	View			
4 Watch 4: Spatial Organization	View			
5 Watch 5: Organization by Extremes	View			
Activities		**Score**	**Sets Available**	**Sets Taken**
6 Recall *	Begin	N/A	5	0
7 Apply *	Begin	N/A	12	0
8 Write	Begin	N/A	1	0

* = Required

Return to Study Plan

Watch - Windows Internet Explorer

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Introduction with Thesis Statement

Body paragraph 1 — Topic sentence stating the **most general point.**
Detail. Detail. Detail.

Body paragraph 2 — Topic sentence stating a **more specific supporting point.**

In an essay, the body paragraphs may be organized from general to particular. The point of the first body paragraph is the most general, and each point that follows is more specific. The skeleton of an essay organized from general to particular looks like this:

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