

Peer Example
Example of Another
Structuring Principle

Beth

“ I suppose my essay was organized spatially. I started with the exterior of the van, then discussed the interior, and ended up with performance. ”

Thesis: As I gathered up my son and his gear to take him to scouts, I realized how perfectly this new minivan meets my needs as a parent.

Topic sentence #1: First, the **exterior** of the van offers me style, safety, and convenience.

Topic sentence #2: Not only does the exterior of the new minivan perfectly suit my needs as a parent, but the **interior** is designed for the driver's safety and comfort.

Topic sentence #3: Finally, the van's **performance** features make it a pleasure to drive.

Peer Example
Example of a
Combination of
Structuring Principles

Tony

“ In my essay on General Colin Powell, I chose to discuss General Powell's military career first because that's what he is best known for. His concern and affection for his family became known when, at his wife's urgings, he declined to run for vice president. His career as a statesman is his most recent and perhaps his most important success. So my essay is a combination of chronological order and order of importance. ”

Thesis: This distinguished man is an excellent role model for African-American men.

Topic sentence #1: Colin Powell's **military career** shows African-American males that they can succeed in a traditionally white institution like the armed services.

Topic sentence #2: Colin Powell serves as an example of the power a **strong family** has to anchor us in enduring values.

Topic sentence #3: After retiring from the military, General Powell has taken his place as a senior **statesman**, a new role for an African-American male.



You should watch out for these common errors when writing body paragraphs.

- Avoid topic sentences that don't support the thesis.
- Avoid topic sentences that are too broad or too narrow to be developed in a paragraph.
- Avoid poorly developed body paragraphs.
- Avoid body paragraphs that do not use transitions within and between paragraphs.
- Avoid body paragraphs that are not presented in logical order.