

Essay Organizer Templates (GranTeach — EKT | E21-M1)

Use these A4 organizers before writing to plan structure and transitions.

Cause & Effect Organizer — Chain

Use when each cause leads to a specific effect in sequence.

Step	Cause/Effect	Key Idea (short)	Signal words / transitions
1	Cause 1		because, due to, stemming from
2	Effect 1		therefore, as a result, consequently
3	Cause 2		because, in turn, leading to
4	Effect 2		thus, hence, consequently
5	Cause 3		because, triggered by, driven by
6	Effect 3		as a consequence, this results in

Cause & Effect Organizer — Block

Group all causes first, then all effects. Best for multi-factor topics.

Section	Focus	Key points	Signal words
Causes (P2–P3)	Cause A / Cause B / Cause C		because, due to, given, owing to
Effects (P4–P5)	Effect X / Effect Y / Effect Z		as a result, therefore, c onsequently

Compare & Contrast Organizer — Block

Describe A fully, then B fully, then synthesize.

Paragraph	Focus	Notes / Evidence	Signal Words
Intro	Thesis + roadmap		in comparison, in contrast
Body 1	All about A		first, moreover, additionally
Body 2	All about B		on the other hand, however
Body 3	Synthesis (A vs B)		overall, whereas, by contrast
Conclusion	So-what / call-forward		ultimately, therefore

Compare & Contrast — Point-by-Point

Each paragraph compares A and B on one criterion.

Criterion	A — key point	B — key point	Signal Words
1			similarly, likewise, whereas, unlike
2			in contrast, however, on the other hand
3			both, while, nonetheless

Signal Words Reference

Relationship	Signal words / phrases
Cause	because, since, due to, owing to, given, as
Effect	therefore, thus, hence, as a result, consequently, this leads to
Addition	moreover, in addition, additionally, besides, further
Contrast	however, nevertheless, nonetheless, in contrast, on the other hand, whereas, while
Similarity	likewise, similarly, in the same vein, in parallel
Emphasis	indeed, notably, significantly, in fact
Conclusion	overall, ultimately, to sum up, in conclusion, as a final point

Mini-Rubric — Organization & Coherence (5-point)

Score	Descriptor
5	Clear thesis; consistent structure; strong topic sentences; smooth transitions; purposeful conclusion.
4	Thesis present; structure mostly consistent; minor lapses in transitions; relevant conclusion.
3	Vague thesis; uneven structure; repetitive/missing transitions; weak synthesis.
2	No clear plan; loose paragraphs; unclear topic sentences.
1	Disorganized; random ideas; no visible structure; no conclusion.