

## FORM AND FUNCTION

The pattern of your organization must move the meaning forward.

For example, if we are talking about bullying, I could choose a couple of options.



The Christmas Tree pattern starts with a narrow focus and gets broader as you go.

1. Bullying in my second period class...should I step in
  - a. Thesis: People should step in and stop bullying
2. Bullying at the school
  - a. Detail/facts
3. Bullying in Utah
  - a. Details/facts
    - i. (suicide/depression rate)
4. Bullying in the U.S.
  - a. Details/facts
    - i. (suicide/depression rates)
5. Bullying internationally—countries picking on countries
  - a. Russia bullying Ukraine
  - b. Syrian president bullying his people
    - i. Many different options
  - c. Revisit of thesis: other countries (US, UN) should get involved.



Conversely, the Ice Cream Cone pattern does the opposite

1. Why should I care about whether the U.S. gets involved in Ukraine, Syria, etc.
  - a. Question: should we be involved
2. Bullying in the U.S.
  - a. Details/facts
    - i. (suicide/depression rates)
3. Bullying in Utah
  - a. Details/facts
    - i. (suicide/depression rate)
4. Bullying at the school
  - a. Detail/facts
5. Bullying in my second period class...should I step in
  - a. Thesis: People should step in and stop bullying

IN BOTH CASES, THE PATTERN OF ORGANIZATION HELPED TO CREATE MORE MEANING...IT MOVED THE MESSAGE FORWARD.

Now, if you're not changing scope and everything is on the same level (more or less), it's more like a flower pattern. You really could discuss things whatever order, but you need to know why you are going from one petal—from one subject—to the next. You MUST know why you are presenting information in the order that you are.

With the Problem-Solution essay, you are lucky because you have a basic pattern than you need to follow (see the outline examples). I teach you about form and function so that when you are in college, you know that you need to pay attention to organization.