METHODS OF DEVELOPMENT

The Method of Development refers to how the essay is organized, and how it unfolds to the reader. Depending on the topic and thesis, the author must choose an appropriate format.

Commonly Used Methods of Development include:

1) Process Analysis

The author explains how a process works, or how to make or do something. The tone is clear and helpful. Avoids jargon.

2) Compare and Contrast

The author is comparing two subjects (i.e.

books, ideas, people, events, products) to illustrate the similarities and/or differences between them.

3) Cause and Effect

The author uses the essay to analyze the

cause(s) and effect(s) of a specific situation or

issue. The essay can begin with either the cause(s)

or the effect(s). The explanation should unfold in a

logical manner, enabling the reader to see the

connection.

4) Classification

The author groups together similar items that share

common characteristics to give readers a better

understanding. The author must be careful to

create distinct categories so there is no overlap.

5) Definition

The author explores a particular topic or subject

and provides a well-developed definition to further

the audience’s understanding. Be sure to establish

their understanding of the general subject or topic

before moving into the specific elements or

characteristics of it.

6) Narration

The author tells a story to make or support a point,

supporting the essay’s thesis.