What are Patterns of Development? It’s how you organize information for an essay, a speech, a paper. The organization of your information is dictated by the content you will be including in your paper. There are 15 or more “methods” of development or “patterns” of development:

I. Chronological
   A. Time: good for telling a biography or historical event
      B. On Monday, then on Tuesday, and on Friday....
      C. In 1799, then in 1803, and finally in 1815....

II. Sequential
    A. steps, what comes next: good for giving instructions
    B. To make a cake, first preheat the oven. Then get out the mixer. Open the cake mix, and add two eggs, 1/2 cup of water and 1/3 cup of oil. Blend together....

III. Spatial
     A. “space” meaning how physical spaces lie in relation to one another
     B. Tells WHERE things are
     C. My bedroom is in the back of the house, behind our living room. Next to my room is the bathroom, and my brother’s room. Down the hall is our kitchen and the back door leads out to our garage and back yard....

IV. Compare/Contrast
   A. how things are the same and how they are different
   B. without passing judgment or drawing conclusion
   C. When we lived in Virginia, the laws for teen drivers changed dramatically. The age to obtain a learner’s permit was raised from 15 to 15 1/2, and Driver’s Ed
became mandatory, and a Driver’s License could not be granted until 16 ½. When we came to Florida, we learned that Learner’s Permits here were available when Florida teens are only 15, and a Driver’s License is available when teens are 16.

V. Advantages/Disadvantages
A. list the good things about a topic and the bad things as well.
B. Offer an opinion
C. If you are a strong swimmer, you may be able to take lifeguarding classes and get a summer job as a lifeguard. It’s fun to be outdoors watching kids have fun in a pool. But, be aware: there is a downside! You’ll have to start your day early by teaching tots how to swim in a cold pool! And sitting all day can get pretty boring. Then there’s the afternoon thunderstorms, when you get sent home with nothing to do (and no pay, btw!)

VI. Cause/Effect
A. One thing directly or indirectly caused another
B. We all knew things in the class were getting out of hand: kids were talking, throwing wads of paper, and books were set aside. The Sub had warned us that we would be quiet one way or another. Then she got out her pad of referrals and calmly started filling in each and every one of our names. So here we all sit in detention, quiet, just like she promised.

VII. Problem/Solution
A. lists something that is wrong and suggests how to fix it.
B. I am so sick of getting up every morning to a sink full of dishes. After we eat dinner at 7:30 and tackle our
homework, check our email and brush our teeth, it’s time for bed. Nobody’s up for dish duty that late at night. So tonight, we are going to have dinner at 6:00 and nobody’s leaving the kitchen until all the clean ones are out of the dishwasher and all the dirty ones have taken their place. We’ll take turns wiping down the table and counters—one week Dad can do it, and next week one of the kids can do it. I don’t mind doing the pots and pans but I am sick of cooking and cleaning up, especially 12 hours after all the food has dried on to a thick crust! YUCK! If we’ll all just pull together, we can have more pleasant family evening without dreading the kitchen every morning.

VIII. Topical (not TROPICAL!)
   A. Arranges items in a topic, subtopic format as a list without drawing conclusions.
   B. Works for large amounts of general information.
Everybody loves dogs and they come in all shapes and sizes. But did you know there are actual categories of dogs and they compete in dog shows just in these categories? There are seven groups: sporting, working, hound, terrier, toy, non-sporting, and herding. Within each group are numerous groups, and all together, there are over 150 distinctive breeds that are recognized by the American Kennel Club, also known as the AKC.

The Toy group, for instance, includes Poodles and Pomeranians, Llasa Apso and Schnauzers. Did you know, though, that Poodles come in both Toy and Teacup size?

In the Working Group are my favorite dogs, the German Shepherds. Even within this relatively new breed (post World War I), there are American German Shepherds and the traditional West German Shepherd. The colors of a shepherd can vary greatly: solid black, black and tan, sable, and my favorite, black and red. Most shepherds have a shorter, rough coat, but a few people prefer the long-haired version that looks more like a Belgian Malenois (or a cross between a shepherd and a collie!)