

Structure and Composition

Eight Levels of Structure:

1. Words in phrases
2. Sentences
3. Paragraphs
4. Segments
5. Sections
6. Divisions
7. Book
8. Old and New Testament

Seven Kinds of Structure:

Use this in thinking through your Horizontal Chart. The following are various ways that an author may use structure in organizing his material:

1. **Geographical** – places (Joshua, Acts)
2. **Chronological** – time and events (Genesis, Luke)
3. **Biographical** – persons (Judges, Ruth)
4. **Topical** – ideas (Jeremiah, Matthew)
5. **Logical** – ideas, a progression of thought (Romans, Galatians)
6. **Epistolary** – letter
7. **Anthology** – collections (Proverbs)

Laws of Composition:

The Laws of Composition reflect an author's style; they are trademarks of how the author expresses himself or arranges his material. The Laws of Composition are to be discovered by the reader - not imposed upon the text.

1. **Comparison** – alike (Romans 7:1-6)
2. **Contrast** – unlike (Acts 4:36-5:1)
3. **Repetition** – the word “holy” in Leviticus, Paul's testimony in Acts
4. **Principality** – emphasis and de-emphasis (Attention to what is stated and what isn't - Note the amount of space the Gospels devote to the last week of Jesus' life on earth)
5. **Continuity** – progression (Similar to repetition but with some variation. Example: the three “lost” parables in Luke 15)

6. **Climax** – everything builds to a high point (Job, Revelation, Ecclesiastes)
7. **Radiation** – central point or passage and everything ties into it (Philemon, v. 10 and Philippians 2:1-11)
8. **Interchange** – topic begins with Subject A, goes on to Subject B, then back to Subject A again (Luke 1-3: A. John's birth announced, B. Jesus' birth announced, A. John born, B. Jesus born – Another example is the opening chapters in 1 Samuel)
9. **Cruciality** – pivot or turning point (Mark 8:27-30; 2 Samuel between chapters 11 & 12)
10. **Harmony** – unity, everything fits together (Hebrews, everything centers around the superiority of Christ)
11. **Interrogation** – asking questions (Romans 6-7, Habakkuk, Malachi)
12. **General to Specific** – in 1 Corinthians the book begins by talking about wisdom in general terms and then moves into the specific lack of wisdom in the Corinthian church.
13. **Problem to Solution** – The author lists the problems and then gives the solution (Galatians)
14. **Theological to Application** – the author presents the theological portion of this work before he goes into application (Galatians)