**Sample *Road* Essay Paragraph Organization**

**After** their encounter with the cannibals, the man maintains the “facade” of control by turning to the map once again (McCarthy 106). Despite his “stud[y],” **however**, the map is in “pieces” and the man had “little notion of where they were,” both literally and figuratively (McCarthy 126). The “pieces” of the map reflect the man’s fragmented identity, having lost the lighter in the basement. The man **then** attempts to “take his bearings” in nature after “stud[y]” and the map fail him, **but** is unable to accomplish anything as assertive as “tak[ing]” anything “in the twilight” (McCarthy 126), without the fire to provide sight, and his status as one of the “good guys” (McCarthy 74) to provide identity. **Though** the man continues to “st[and] at a rise in the road” and feign moral superiority, the boy cares only for practicality, not morality (McCarthy 126). “Can we have a fire? The boy said (McCarthy 126).” “Can,” and not “should.” The boy lives in the reality of what is or isn’t physically possible, **while** the man maintains his moral self-deception.

-**Chronological**--grouping things in order of time (e.g. my essay, which looks at the way the word "study" is used over the course of the novel)  
-**Sequential**--if your topic is concerned with a step-by-step process (e.g. how the man explores a new area)  
-**Spatial**--where things fit together in a physical space (e.g. if you were to compare where scenes happen)  
-**Compare/Contrast--**arranging your ideas based on how they are similar or different (e.g. if you're looking at the two main p.o.v.'s/tone's McCarthy uses)  
-**Cause/Effect--**illustrating the relationship between ideas/topics/events (e.g. when/why the man's dreams/flashbacks occur)  
-**Problem/Solution--**detailing a problem and then a course of action (e.g. if you were writing about the types of problems that concern the man v. the boy and how they cope with them)  
-**Topical**--grouping ideas based on topic (e.g. writing about the types of things people eat)

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