

# STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

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## EIGHT LEVELS OF STRUCTURE:

Words in phrases  
Sentences  
Paragraphs  
Segments  
Sections  
Divisions  
Books  
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 in organizing his material.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL - places (Acts, Joshua)
2. CHRONOLOGICAL - time and events (Genesis, Luke)
3. BIOGRAPHICAL - persons (Judges, Ruth)
4. TOPICAL - ideas (Jeremiah, Matthew)
5. LOGICAL - ideas, a progression of thoughts (Romans, Galatians)
6. EPISTOLARY - letter
7. ANTHOLOGY - collections (Proverbs)

## LAW OF COMPOSITION:

These 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 theme and everything ties into it (Philemon v.10 and Phil.2:1-11).
8. INTERCHANGE - topic begins with Subject, goes on to Subject B, then back to Subject A again. (Example: Luke 1-3: A. John's birth announced, B. Jesus' birth announced, A. John born, B. Jesus born. Another example: opening chapters of 1 Samuel.)
9. CRUCIALITY - pivot or turning point (Mark 8:27-30, 2 Samuel 11-12).
10. HARMONY - unity, everything fits together (Hebrews; centers around the superiority of Christ.)
11. INTERROGATION - asking questions (Romans 6-7, Habakkuk, and Malachi).
12. GENERAL TO SPECIFIC - 1 Cor: the book begins by talking about wisdom in general terms and then moves into the specific lack of wisdom in the Corinthian church.
13. PROBLEMS AND SOLUTION - author lists the problems and then gives the solution. Eg. Galatians
14. THEOLOGICAL TO APPLICATION - author presents the theological portion of his work before he goes into application (Galatians).

# HOW TO DRAW A HORIZONTAL CHART

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1. Determine the number of verses in the book - See handout.
2. Count the number of squares on your graph paper from top to bottom.
3. Minus five squares for the top and five squares for the bottom. This will give you the number of usable squares.
4. Divide the number of usable squares by the number of verses in the book. Round to the nearest decimal. (This will be modeled in class)  
For example:           45 usable squares  
                          104 verses in Philippians  
 $45/104 = 0.43$  rounds to 0.4  
                          Scale = 0.4squares/verse  
                          This is why you brought your calculator!!!!
5. Count the number of verses in each paragraph.
6. Multiply the number of verses in each paragraph by your scale.  
Example: 12 vs x 0.4 = 4.8 This can be rounded to 5 squares.
7. Leave 5 squares on the left hand side of your page. Leave room on the right side for your sections, divisions, title and key verse.
8. Section off your box, giving the proper proportion for each paragraph. (This will be modeled in class)
9. After you have done your paragraphs draw lines for sections and divisions.
10. Fill out your paragraph titles including references, section titles and division titles.
11. Record the name of the book, your title for the book and your key verse. See sample.
12. Record the scale on the bottom right hand corner.





# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE – NUMBER OF VERSES

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OLD TESTAMENT		NEW TESTAMENT	
Genesis	1533	Matthew	1071
Exodus	1213	Mark	678
Leviticus	859	Luke	1151
Numbers	1288	John	879
Deuteronomy	959	Acts	1007
Joshua	658	Romans	433
Judges	618	1 Corinthians	437
Ruth	85	2 Corinthians	257
1 & 2 Samuel	1505	Galatians	149
1 & 2 Kings	1535	Ephesians	155
1 & 2 Chronicles	1764	Philippians	104
Ezra	280	Colossians	95
Nehemiah	406	1 Thessalonians	89
Esther	167	2 Thessalonians	47
Job	1070	1 Timothy	113
Proverbs	915	2 Timothy	83
Ecclesiastes	222	Titus	46
Song of Solomon	117	Philemon	25
Isaiah	1292	Hebrews	303
Jeremiah	1364	James	108
Lamentations	154	1 Peter	105
Ezekiel	1273	2 Peter	61
Daniel	357	1 John	105
Hosea	197	2 John	13
Joel	73	3 John	14
Amos	146	Jude	25
Obadiah	21	Revelation	404
Jonah	48		
Micah	105		
Nahum	47		
Habakkuk	56		
Zephaniah	53		
Haggai	38		
Zechariah	211		
Malachi	55		