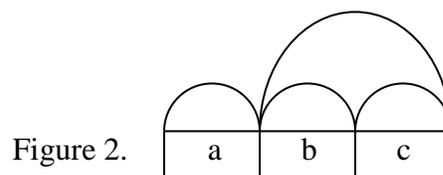
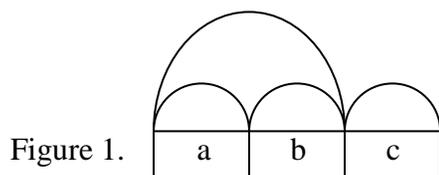


# Steps in Arcing a Passage

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(Adapted from Daniel Fuller Hermeneutics Syllabus)

1. Working from your sentence flow, determine how many propositions there are in your passage.
2. Write out the propositions on the lower part of a paper each on a separate line and numbered, keeping with the verse numbering if possible (e.g. 12a, 12b, 13, 14 a, 14b, 14c, 14d, etc.).
3. Draw a horizontal line. Draw an arc for each proposition and place its number beneath it.
4. Begin a tentative grouping of propositions that are most closely related. Your sentence flow may help to show those propositions that are grammatically dependent on another.
5. Begin with the first arc and try to determine its relationship with the second. (Not necessarily the first in verse order, but the first you will work with. Your sentence flow should tell you which propositions are the most closely related. Start with these.) Look for key words (especially conjunctions), logical relationships and context to help determine the relationship.
6. Place the appropriate symbol for the relationship in its tentative location. It is often helpful to draw lines in different levels to show independent or subordinate relationships as you go along. (Use pencil so that it can be erased and reworked)
7. Once two arcs are connected with the appropriate symbols for their relationship, they should now be treated as one arc. The combined meaning of the connected arcs should then be connected with the surrounding arcs by describing that relationship.
8. Follow this procedure for each arc. Try to determine how it is related to that which follows it and precedes it. At this stage you need to be asking and tentatively answering whether each proposition is related more closely with the arc before or the arc after. For instance, if proposition b is related more closely to proposition a than to proposition c, it would be arced as in figure 1- showing that it is related to a, and that c is related to the whole of a-b. If b is more closely related to c than to a, it would be arced as in figure 2.



9. Start with the lower levels. When you have connected all the lower levels, describe the connection between larger groups of arcs. The larger groups are connected with the same relationships and symbols. Continue asking the connection between all groups until every arc is connected into one overarching arc. Always begin with the lowest levels and work upward.
10. Readjust and recopy your arc when you are satisfied you have adequately described all the relationships.
11. Make a Teaching Outline from the arc.

See also: [Biblical Exegesis](#) by John Piper,

<http://www.desiringgod.org/media/pdf/booklets/BTBX.pdf>  
<http://www.biblearc.com>

ch. 6 of [Interpreting the Pauline Epistles](#) by Thomas Schreiner, Baker, 1990.

And "Propositional Relations" by Vern Poythress in [The New Testament Student and His Field](#)