

Text Structures

Structure	Definition	Signal Words	Graphic Organizers	Summary Questions	Paragraph Frames
Description	The author explains a topic, idea, person, place, or thing by listing characteristics, features, and examples. Focus is on one thing and its components.	For example Characteristics are Such as Looks like Consists of For instance Most important *Look for topic word (or synonym) to be repeated throughout the text.	<p>Concept Map</p> <p>Timeline</p> <p>Steps/Directions</p> <p>Cycle/Circle</p>	<p>What specific person, place, thing, event, or concept is being described?</p> <p>How is the topic described? (How does it work? What does it do? What does it look like? Etc.)</p> <p>What are the most important attributes or characteristics?</p> <p>How can the topic be classified? (For example, a robin can be classified as a type of bird.)</p>	<p>A _____ is a type of _____. It is made up of _____ and looks like _____. Some _____ have _____ such as _____. For _____ example, _____ Now you can recognize the _____.</p>
Sequence	The author lists items or events in numerical or chronological order. Describes the order of events or how to do or make something.	First, second, third Next Then, after Before, prior to Not long after While, meanwhile Simultaneously At the same time Following Finally At last In the end On (date) At (time) Directions	<p>Timeline</p> <p>Steps/Directions</p> <p>Cycle/Circle</p>	<p>What sequence of events is being described?</p> <p>What are the major events or incidents that occur?</p> <p>What are the steps, directions, or procedures to follow? (What must be done first, second, etc.?)</p> <p>What is the beginning event?</p> <p>What other events or steps are included?</p> <p>What is the final outcome, event, or step?</p>	<p>Here is how a _____ is made. First, _____ Next, _____ Then, _____ Finally, _____</p> <p>On (date) _____ happened. Prior to that _____ was _____. Then _____ After that _____ In the end, _____</p>
Compare and Contrast	The author explains how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different.	Differs from Similar to In contrast Alike Same as As well as On the other hand Both Either, or Not only, but also Yet, although, but, However On the other hand * Also look for "-est" words: best, fewest, tallest, etc.	<p>Venn Diagram</p> <p>T-Chart</p>	<p>What items are being compared?</p> <p>What is it about them that is being compared?</p> <p>What characteristics of items form the basis of the comparison?</p> <p>What characteristics do they have in common; how are these items alike?</p> <p>In what way are these items different?</p>	<p>_____ and _____ are alike in several ways. Both _____ and _____ have similar _____. Both also _____ as well as _____. On the other hand, there are some differences as well. One way they differ is _____. Another difference is _____. Although they share _____, only _____ is the _____-est.</p>

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Cause and Effect	<p>The author lists one or more causes or events and the resulting consequences or effects.</p> <p>Effect = What happened?</p> <p>Cause = What made it happen?</p> <p>Purpose is to explain why or how something happened, exists, or works.</p> <p>*Often there will be an "if/then" pattern</p>	<p>Reasons why</p> <p>Reasons for</p> <p>If...then</p> <p>As a result of</p> <p>Therefore</p> <p>Because of</p> <p>So</p> <p>Since</p> <p>In order to</p> <p>Leads or leads to</p> <p>Effects of</p> <p>Caused by</p> <p>Result</p> <p>Outcome</p> <p>Impact</p> <p>Influenced by</p> <p>Brought about by</p>		<p>What happened?</p> <p>Why did it happen? What was the reason for...?</p> <p>What was the effect(s) of the event? What happened as a result of...?</p> <p>What were the results or outcomes caused by the event?</p> <p>In what ways did prior event(s) cause or influence the main event?</p> <p>Will this result always happen from these causes?</p>	<p>The reason why _____ happened was because of _____. If _____, then _____.</p> <p>In order to _____, Since _____, Finally, due to _____, This _____ explains why _____.</p>
Problem and Solution	<p>The author states a problem and lists one or more possible solutions to the problem.</p> <p>May also include the pros and cons for the solutions.</p>	<p>Problem is...</p> <p>Dilemma is...</p> <p>Puzzle is...</p> <p>Solved</p> <p>Question</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Because</p> <p>Since</p> <p>This led to</p> <p>The main difficulty</p> <p>One possible solution is...</p> <p>One challenge...</p> <p>Therefore,</p> <p>This led to, so that</p> <p>If...then, thus</p>		<p>What is the problem(s)?</p> <p>Who had the problem?</p> <p>What is causing the problem?</p> <p>Why is this a problem?</p> <p>What is wrong and how can it be taken care of?</p> <p>What solutions are recommended or attempted?</p> <p>What can be improved, changed, fixed, or remedied?</p> <p>What are the pros and cons of the solutions offered?</p>	<p>_____ had/is a problem because _____.</p> <p>One possible solution is _____. This answer is good because _____.</p> <p>Therefore, _____.</p> <p>As a result, _____.</p>