

5 Text Structures

DESCRIPTION (Information)

Purpose: To explain a topic, concept, person, place, event or object, by providing characteristics, features, and/or giving examples

Signal Words or Phrases Within Text		
<i>Position words</i> (beside, near, in front of, above, along)		
Such as	Most important, notable	Specifically
For instance	Features	Characteristics
Appears to be	Made up of	Consists of
Looks like	In fact	For example
Such as	Most important, notable	Specifically
For instance	Features	Characteristics

COMPARE & CONTRAST (Wisdom)

Purpose: To describe what is similar and/or different about two or more subjects.

Signal Words or Phrases Within Text		
Both	Similarity	Either-or-
Also	Opposite	Yet
Too	Different from	On the contrary
Just as	Compared to	On the other hand
Instead of	However	In contrast
But	As opposed to	In comparison
Alike	Same as	
Unlike	Despite	

CHRONLOGY/SEQUENCE (Information)

Purpose: To provide information in time order or the order in which events, actions, or steps in a process occur

- Often used in directions, manuals, labs, history, and even math problems

Signal Words or Phrases Within Text		
First/second/third	Directions	As soon as
Then	Before	Prior to
Next	Now	Step
Last	After	Following
Initially	At the same time	Simultaneously
During	Meanwhile	Finally

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PROBLEM AND SOLUTION (Wisdom)

Purpose: To state one or more problems and provide one or more solutions to the problem

Text will always provide a solution to the problem

Signal Words or Phrases Within Text		
Problem	Answer	So that
Solution	Solved	Led to
Dilemma	Cause	Issue
Puzzle	Since	Advantage
Because	As a result of	Disadvantage
Question	In order to	

CAUSE & EFFECT (Knowledge)

Purpose: Explain why or how something happened/happens

- Sometimes confused with problem and solution text strategy
- Difference: Text does not always provide a solution to a problem
- Cause = Why something happened/What made it happen
- Effect = What happened as a result of cause

Signal Words or Phrases Within Text		
Because	Leads to	On account of
So	Consequently	Outcome
Therefore	When/if – then	Effects of
As a result	Reasons for	Impact
Since	Thus	Influenced by
In order to	Due to	
Is caused by	For this reason	