

Text Structure and Organization

Nonfiction

Description

Best when used to learn a lot of information about a topic and the author describes a topic by **listing** characteristics, features, examples. Sequence does not necessarily matter.

Description Signal Words

- For example
- For instance
- Specifically
- In particular
- As shown in/by
- In addition
- Furthermore
- Additionally
- In fact

Sequence

The author lists items or events in **chronological or numerical order.**

The author lists items or events in **order of importance.**

Sequence Signal Words

Order of Importance

long after,
now, as,
before, after,
until, when,
then, during

Chronological

one, two . . .
first, second,
third, fourth . . .
to begin,
next, finally,
also, too

Numerical

most
important,
therefore,
consequently,
as a result,
this led to, so,
so that,
nevertheless,
accordingly

Compare and Contrast

The author explains how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different

Compare/Contrast Signal Words

- However
- But
- By contrast
- On the other hand
- Not only...But also
- Either...Or
- While
- Although
- Similarly
- Yet
- In comparison
- Different
- Whereas
- Otherwise
- Compared to/with
- Like

Cause and Effect

The author lists one or more causes and the resulting effect or effects

Cause/Effect Signal Words

- Because
- Cause
- Since
- Therefore
- When . . . So
- So
- Despite
- If....Then
- When . . .Then
- Consequently
- As a result
- Accordingly
- This led to . . .

Problem and Solution

The author states a problem and lists one or more solutions for the problem.

Problem and solution can also be treated in cause and effect statements.

Fact and Opinion

The author states facts about the topic but also inserts opinions. The author's purpose is to persuade the reader to agree with the author's point of view.

Fact/Opinion Signal Words

- Always
- Only
- Never
- All
- None
- Mostly
- Hardly
- No one
- Everyone
- Nobody
- Everybody
- Anyone
- Rarely
- Usually

Read each sentence. Underline the subject in blue and the verbs in red. Put brackets around each prepositional phrase. Then circle the object of the preposition.

Mosquitoes are troublesome little insects related to the fly. They are especially troublesome because they spread serious diseases like yellow fever, malaria, West Nile virus and encephalitis, the inflammation of the brain. Even without infection, they cause itchy, red swellings that can become sores if over scratched.

In the United States, students attend school Monday through Friday for about eight hours. It would be a good idea to expand the school week through Saturday. Every American needs a superior education.

Frogs and cats make great pets.
Even though cats are mammals
and frogs are amphibians, they
both are lovable creatures.

You have probably heard about the ozone layer, and how it protects us from harmful UV rays. What you may not know is that driving your car causes the ozone layer to deteriorate at an alarming pace.

The world's favorite stories can't stay put. People spread them around by retelling them in a variety of ways. For instance, movie makers often take a favorite book and turn the story into a film .