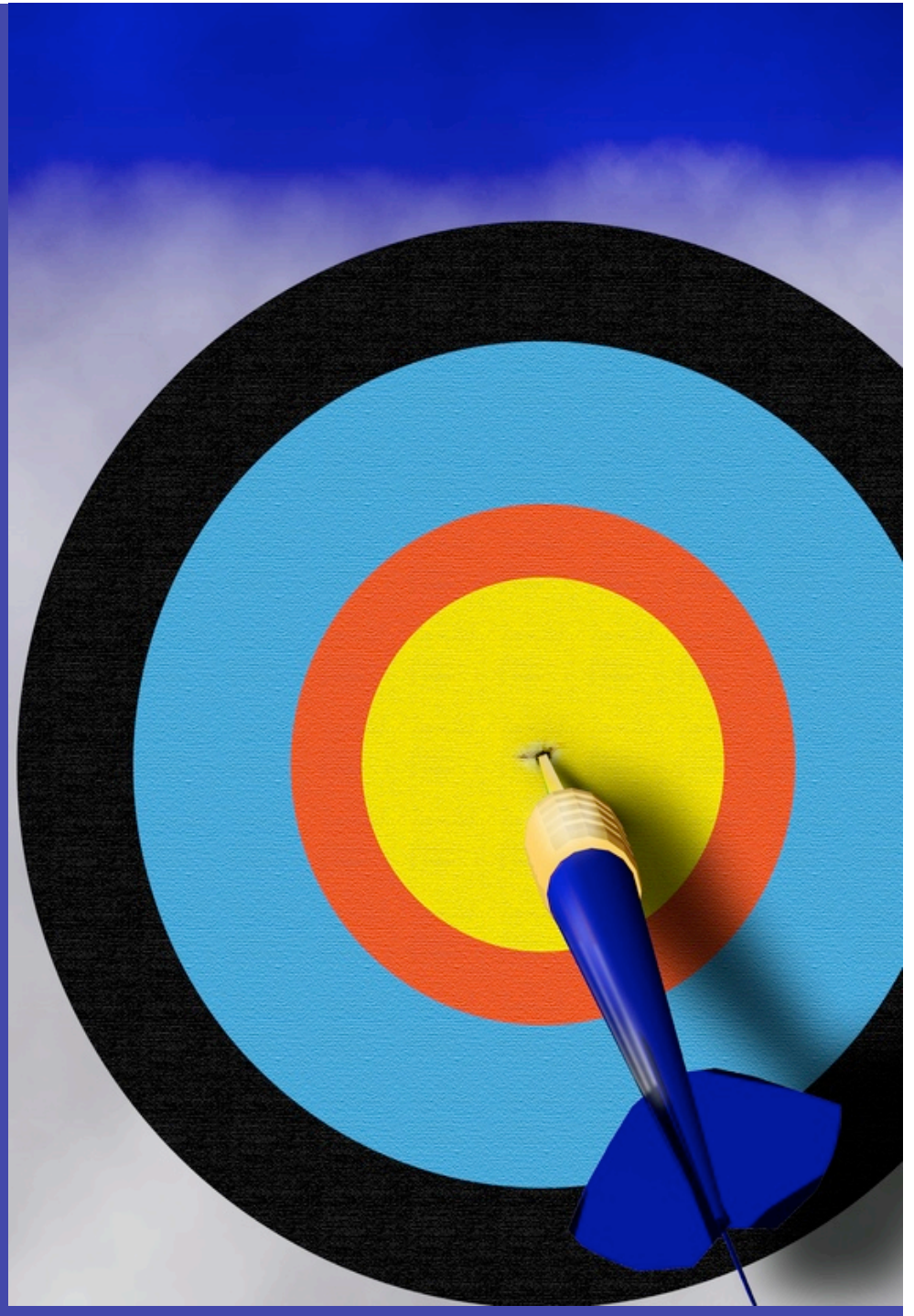


Targeting Text Structures to Improve Reading

GCHS Language Arts
Week 1 of 2



Text Types & Terms on the KS Reading Assessment



Technical

Instruct, Describe

Text Features
 Title
 Headings Subheadings
 Charts/Graphs/Maps
 Topic/Summary
 Sentences
 Illustrations
 Captions
 Boldface
 Italics
 Sidebar
 ...

Comprehension Skills
 Topic, Main Idea, Supporting Details
 Make Inferences & Draw Conclusions
 Retell / Summarize
 Compare & Contrast
 Cause & Effect Relationships
 Fact vs Opinion
 Bias
 ...

Text Structures
 Description
 Sequence
 Cause & Effect
 Compare & Contrast
 Problem & Solution

Persuasive Techniques
 Bandwagon
 Citing Statistics
 Glittering Generalities
 Citing Authority
 Testimonial



Narrative

Entertain, Tell a Story



Expository

Explain, Inform



Persuasive

Convince, Persuade

Character Analysis
 Protagonist
 Antagonist
 Round
 Flat
 Static
 Dynamic

Plot Elements
 Problem/
 Conflict
 Rising Action
 Climax
 Falling Action
 Subplots
 Parallel-
 Episodes
 Theme


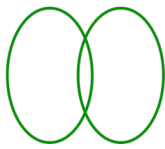


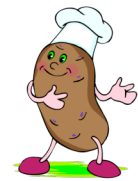
Setting
 Context
 (Historical,
 Social, Cultural)
 &
 Influence of
 setting on
 events &
 characters

What are Text Structures?

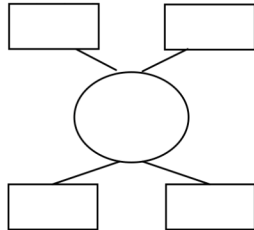
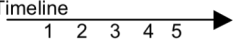
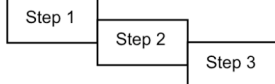
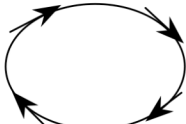
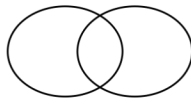
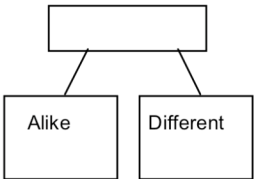
Organizational patterns in writing

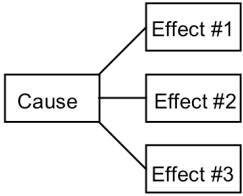
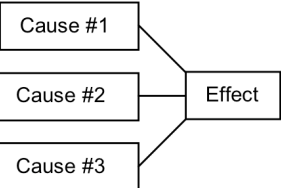
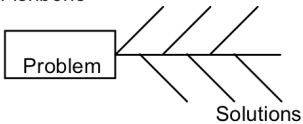
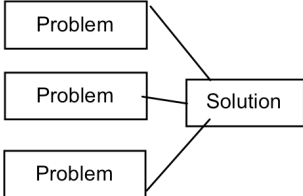
- Description
- Sequence
- Problem and Solution
- Cause and Effect
- Comparison and Contrast

Text Structure Signal Questions & Signal Words

Cause and Effect	Compare and Contrast	Sequence	Problem and Solution	Description
				
Cause is why something happened. Effect is what happened. (Sometimes the effect is listed first.)	Shows how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different.	Describes items or events in order or tells the steps to follow to do something or make something.	Tells about a problem (and sometimes says why there is a problem) then gives one or more possible solutions.	A topic, idea, person, place, or thing is described by listing its features, characteristics, or examples.
Signal Questions				
What happened? Why did it happen? What caused it to happen?	What things are being compared? In what ways are they alike? In what ways are they different?	What items, events, or steps are listed? Do they have to happen in this order? Do they always happen in this order?	What is the problem? Why is this a problem? Is anything being done to try to solve the problem? What can be done to solve the problem?	What specific topic, person, idea, or thing is being described? How is it being described (what does it look like, how does it work, what does it do, etc.)? What is important to remember about it?
Signal Words				
So Because Since Therefore If...then This led to Reason why As a result May be due to Effect of Consequently For this reason	Same as Similar Alike As well as Not only...but also Both Instead of Either...or On the other hand Different from As opposed to	First Second Next Then Before After Finally Following Not long after Now Soon	Question is... Dilemma is... The puzzle is... To solve this... One answer is... One reason for the problem is...	For instance Such as... To begin with An example To illustrate Characteristics *Look for the topic word (or a synonym or pronoun) to be repeated

Text Structures

Structure	Definition	Signal Words	Graphic Organizers	Summary Questions	Paragraph Frames
Description	<p>The author explains a topic, idea, person, place, or thing by listing characteristics, features, and examples.</p> <p>Focus is on one thing and its components.</p>	<p>For example Characteristics are Such as Looks like Consists of For instance Most important</p> <p>*Look for topic word (or synonym) to be repeated throughout the text.</p>	<p>Concept Map</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 _____.</p> <p>Some _____ have _____ such as _____. For example, _____.</p> <p>_____ has several characteristics. One characteristic is _____. Another is _____, which is important because _____.</p>
Sequence	<p>The author lists items or events in numerical or chronological order.</p> <p>Describes the order of events or how to do or make something.</p>	<p>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>	<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, _____.</p> <p>Next, _____. Then, _____.</p> <p>Finally, _____.</p> <p>On (date) _____ happened. Prior to that _____ was _____. Then _____.</p> <p>After that _____. In the end, _____.</p>
Compare and Contrast	<p>The author explains how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>* Also look for “-est” words: best, fewest, tallest, etc.</p>	<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, one way they differ is _____. Another difference is _____. Although they share _____, only _____ is the _____-est.</p>

Structure	Description	Signal Words	Graphic Organizers	Summary Questions	Paragraph Frames
<p>Cause and Effect</p>	<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 Reasons for If...then As a result of Therefore Because of So Since In order to Leads or leads to Effects of Caused by Result Outcome Impact Influenced by Brought about by</p>	<p></p> <p></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 _____ hadn't happened, then _____. Due to _____ occurring, _____. This explains why _____.</p> <p>The cause of _____ is not easy to define. Some people think the cause is _____. Others believe the main cause is _____. Understanding the cause of _____ is important because _____.</p> <p>The effects of _____ are significant because _____. One effect of _____ is _____. Another result is _____.</p> <p>Because of these outcomes, it important that _____.</p>
<p>Problem and Solution</p>	<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... Dilemma is... Puzzle is... Solved Question Answer Because Since This led to The main difficulty One possible solution is... One challenge... Therefore, This led to, so that If...then, thus</p>	<p>Fishbone</p> <p></p> <p></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 _____. One possible solution is _____. This answer is good because _____. Therefore, _____.</p> <p>As a result, _____.</p> <p>The problem of _____ really boils down to the issue of _____. In the past, the common solution was to _____.</p> <p>However, this was only effective in terms of _____. There are now other solutions that might work. One option would be to _____.</p>

Text Structures

Why is it important that readers can recognize and understand text structures?

(Besides that it's on the state assessment!)



Pencils Down!
Get ready to analyze the
image on the next slide.



You will be given one minute to study the picture on the next slide. Then you will have one minute asked to reproduce it.





You have one minute to draw!

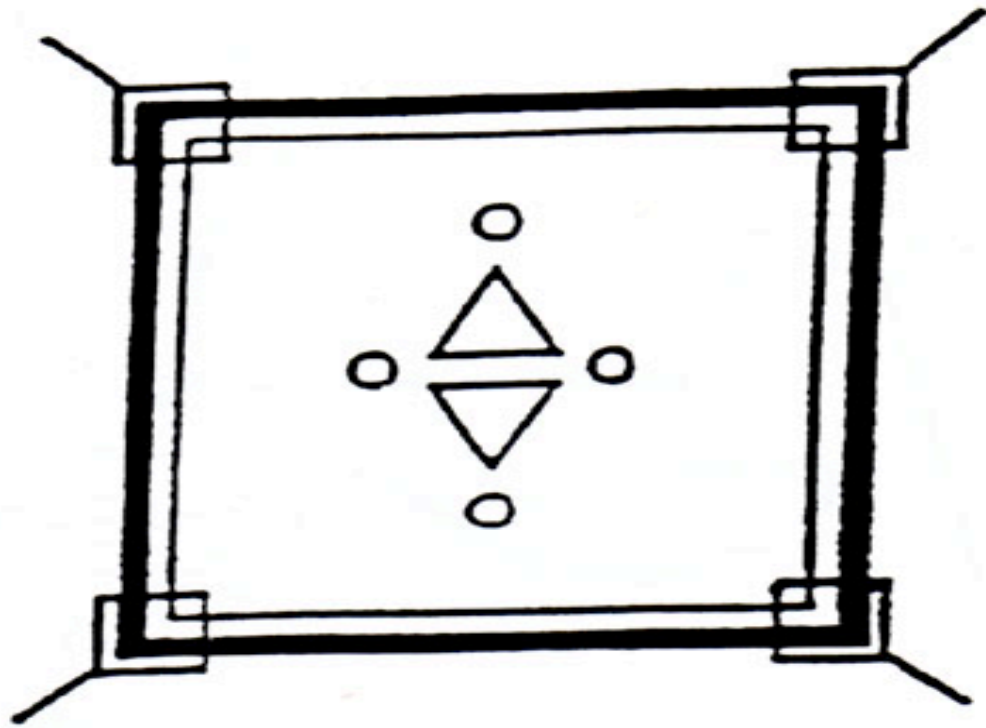


Pencils Down!

Let's try another one!

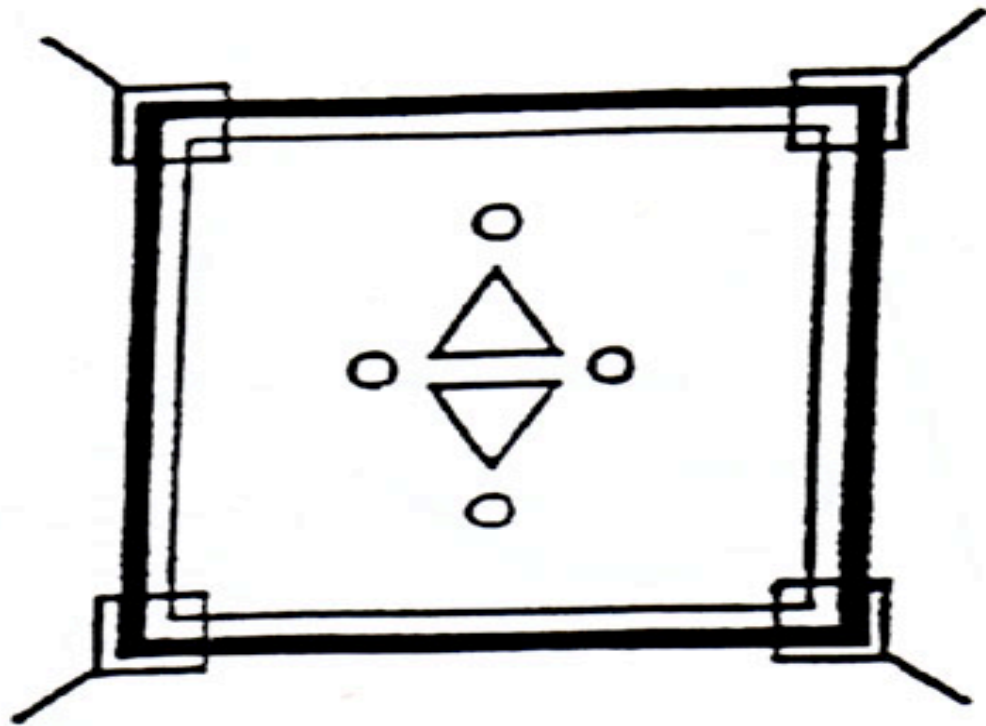


You will be given one minute to study the picture on the next slide. Then you will have one minute asked to reproduce it.



A silver stopwatch with a white face and a red dashed circle around the center, set against a light blue background. The stopwatch has two bells on top and a small button on the side. The face shows numbers from 1 to 15 and a hand pointing to approximately 10. The text "You have one minute to draw!" is overlaid in the center of the stopwatch face.

You have one minute to draw!



***What does this
have to do with
READING?***



***Text
Structures?***

Pencils Down!

Let's try something else
--this time using numbers!



You will be given one minute to **memorize the number** on the next slide. Then you will have one minute asked to reproduce it.

17766024365911



Write the number from memory!

17766024365911

Let's **try again** but think . . .



American Revolution / Declaration of Independence

Minutes / hours / days



Emergency



1776

60-24-365

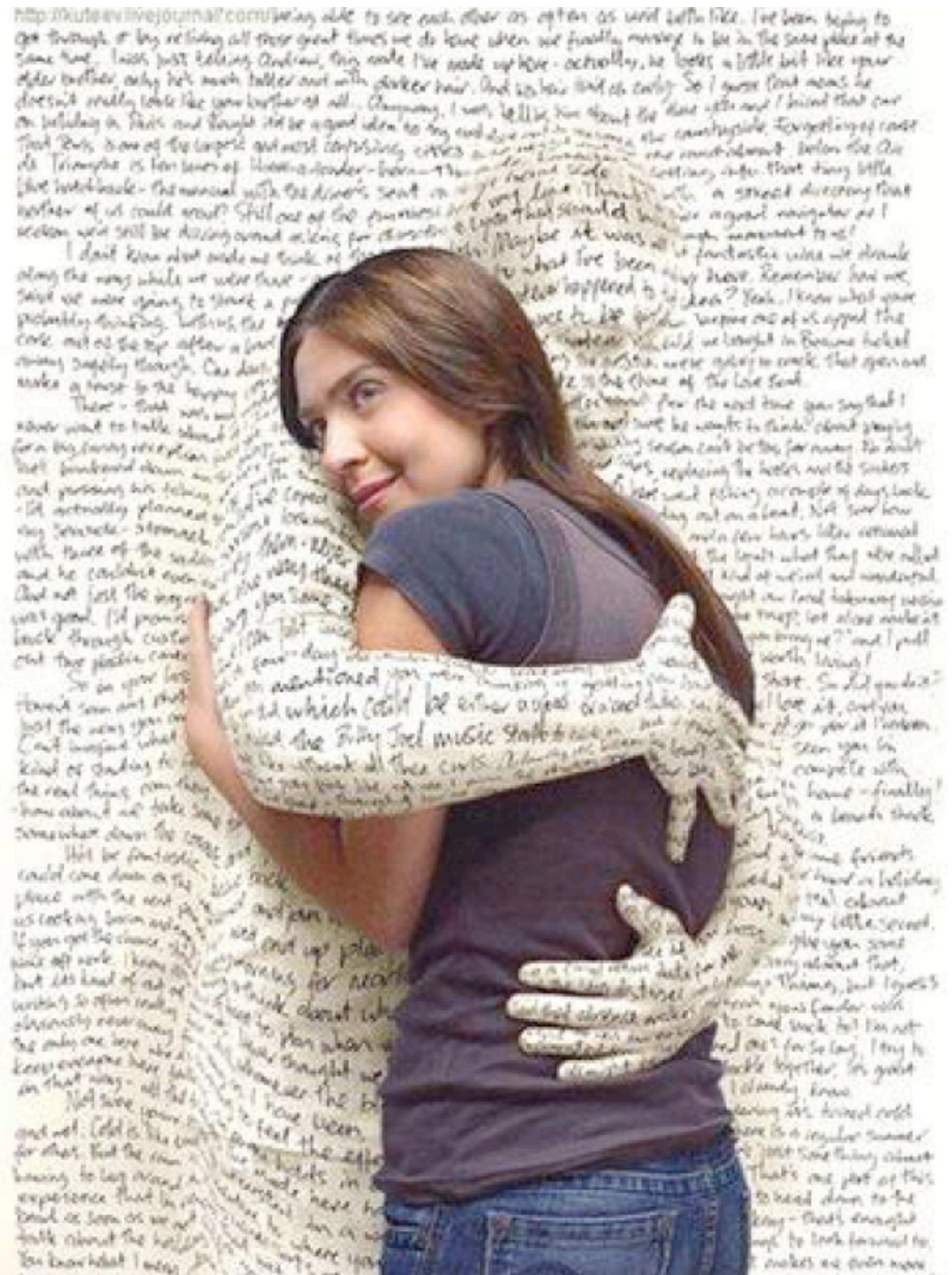
911

***What does this
have to do with
READING?***



***Text
Structures?***

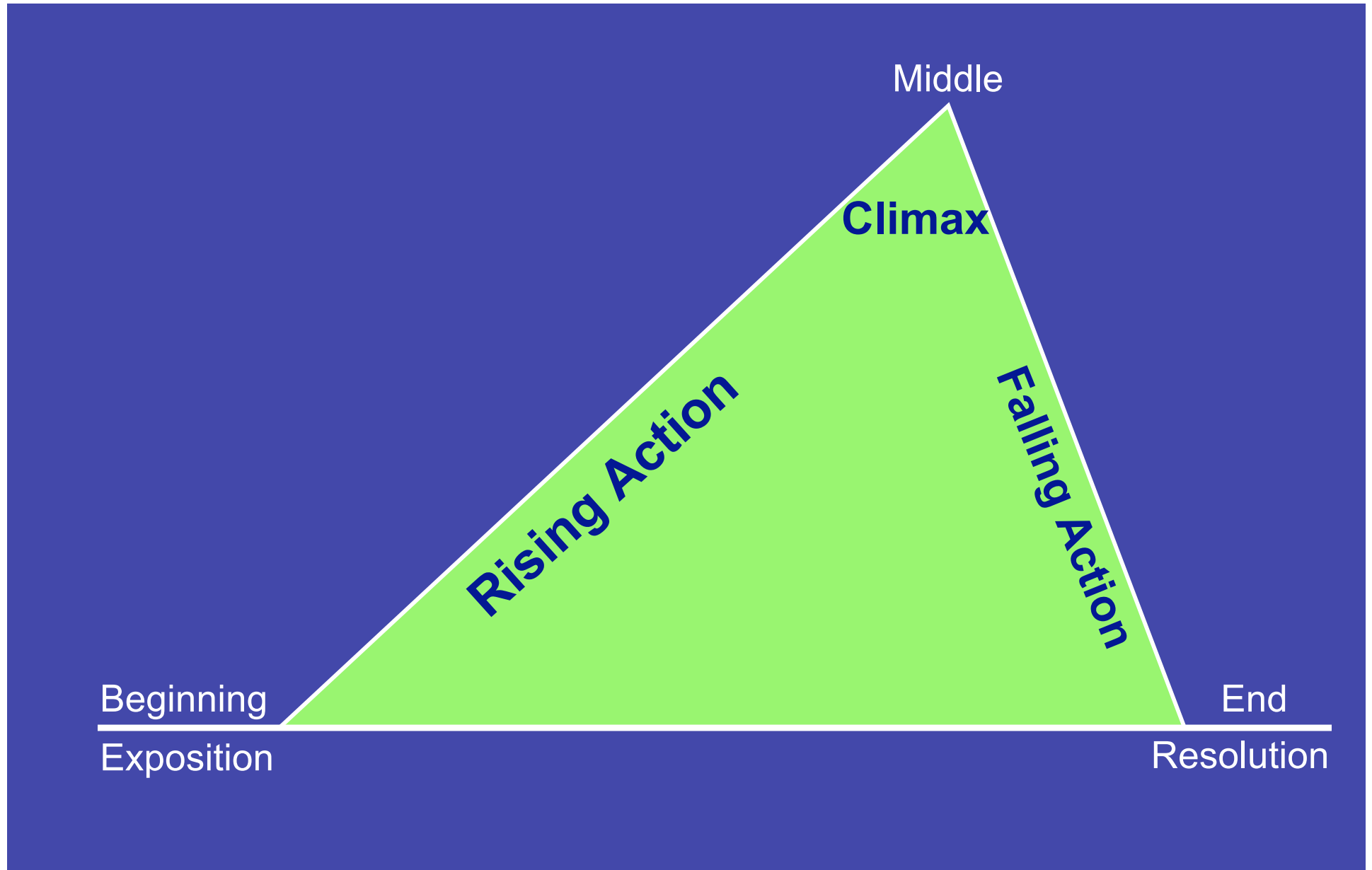
The better a reader understands text structures, the higher the comprehension.





**Understanding
text structures is
the KEY to
unlocking
expository text!!**

Expository Text has **NO PLOT LINE** to Support Comprehension



NARRATIVE

SETTING
CHARACTERS
RISING ACTION / EVENTS
PROBLEMS/GOALS
CLIMAX
FALLING ACTION/
RESOLUTION
THEME

EXPOSITORY

MAIN IDEA & SUPPORTING
DETAILS
TEXT STRUCTURES
(ORGANIZATIONAL
PATTERNS)
DESCRIPTION
SEQUENCE
CAUSE & EFFECT
PROBLEM & SOLUTION
COMPARISON & CONTRAST

Text Structure Research

“Many students experience problems comprehending expository text....One reason is that they can't see the basic structure of the text. Some students get lost in the words and can't see the big picture.”

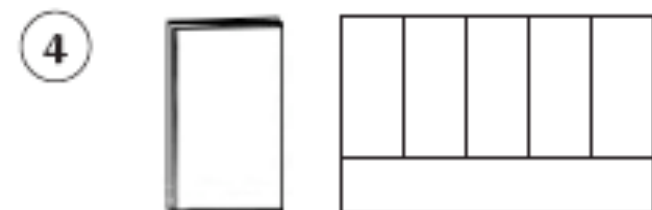
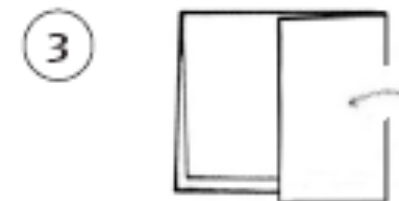
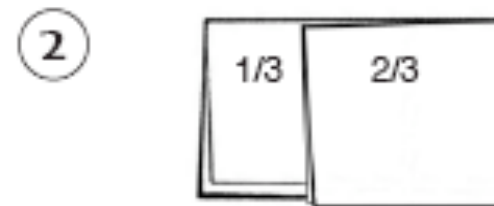
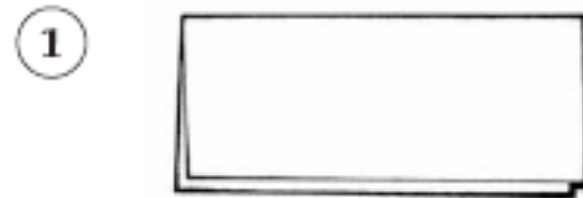
Dymock, 1998; Dymock & Nicholson, 1999

Text Structure Foldable

Five-Tab Book

1. Fold a sheet of paper in half like a *hot dog*.
2. Fold the paper so that one-third is exposed and two-thirds are covered.
3. Fold the two-thirds section in half.
4. Fold the one-third section (single thickness) backward to form a fold line.

The paper will be divided into fifths when opened. Use this foldable to organize information about five countries, dates, events, and so on.



Text Structure Foldable

Label outside tabs:

- Description
- Sequence
- Compare & Contrast
- Cause & Effect
- Problem & Solution

Description
Sequence
Compare- Contrast
Cause- Effect
Problem- Solution

Text Structure Foldable

Next we will review each text structure.

Make notes inside your foldable as we go.

Inside tabs:

Left Side-

- Visuals only

Right Side-

- Text Only

Description
Sequence
Compare- Contrast
Cause- Effect
Problem- Solution

Description

Describes something

looks like

tastes like

smells like

sounds like



feels like

examples are

for example
to begin with
in addition
most important
in front
about
has

Signal Words
characteristics are
also
such as
another
beside
is
have

for instance
in fact
to illustrate
furthermore
near
are
does

Description

The music was blasting so loud, Marco thought his ears would burst. The stage was filled with bright blue laser beams and a shower of yellow and green paper streamers. All around him, the crowd was singing and dancing wildly.

Text Structure Foldable

*Add notes to the
DESCRIPTION section
of your foldable.*

Inside tabs:

Left Side-

- Visuals only

Right Side-

- Text Only

Description
Sequence
Compare- Contrast
Cause- Effect
Problem- Solution

Sequence

Provides a series or steps



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



first
on (date)
next
then

Signal Words
second
not long after
at the same time

before
after that
finally

Sequence

Provides a series or steps



first
on (date)
next
then

Signal Words
second
not long after
at the same time

before
after that
finally

Sequence

Derek finished his math homework, then worked on his science project, and saved his reading assignment for last. When he was finished reading, he closed the book, turned off the lamp on his desk, and went to bed.

Text Structure Foldable

Add notes to the SEQUENCE section of your foldable.

Inside tabs:

Left Side-

- Visuals only

Right Side-

- Text Only

Description
Sequence
Compare- Contrast
Cause- Effect
Problem- Solution

Comparison and Contrast

Compares and contrasts the similarities and differences between two things

Contrast

- different from
- in contrast
- although
- more than
- less than
- instead of
- however

Compare

- same as
- alike
- not only...but also
- either...or
- likewise
- similarly
- similar to
- compared with
- as well as
- resemble

Contrast

- on the other hand
- on the contrary
- as opposed to
- but not
- while
- unless



(Adapted from Tompkins, 2006)

Comparison and Contrast

Although both cities have experienced great tragedies, Greensburg is very different from New York City. There are no tall skyscrapers in Greensburg. All you can see are fields and sky. Instead of taxicab horns and fire truck sirens, it is so quiet at night that you can hear the crickets chirping.

Text Structure Foldable

*Add notes to the
COMPARE -
CONTRAST section
of your foldable.*

Inside tabs:

Left Side-

- Visuals only

Right Side-

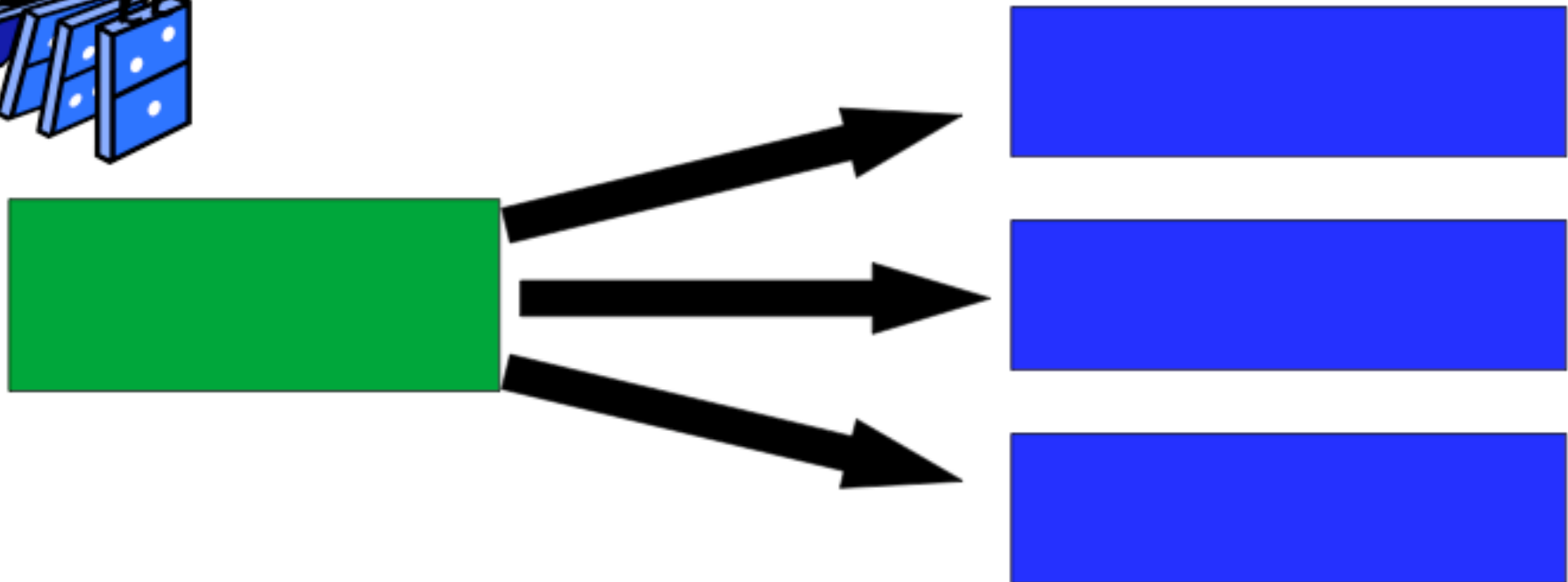
- Text Only

Description
Sequence
Compare- Contrast
Cause- Effect
Problem- Solution



Cause and Effect

Presents cause and effect relationships



Signal Words

because
therefore
this leads to
accordingly
may be due to
for this reason

if...then
since
so that
because of
effects of

as a result
consequently
nevertheless
in order to
thus

Cause and Effect

Every spring, shortly after the tulips bloom, farmers in Holland go through the tulip fields and cut the blooms off the tulips. This seems strange, because it leaves a field full of green stems. However, it makes the colorful tulip blooms grow back even bigger and stronger later that spring.

Text Structure Foldable

*Add notes to the
CAUSE - EFFECT
section of your
foldable.*

Inside tabs:

Left Side-

- Visuals only

Right Side-

- Text Only

Description
Sequence
Compare- Contrast
Cause- Effect
Problem- Solution

Problem and Solution

Identifies a problem and a solution to the problem



Signal Words

the problem is
the puzzle is
solve
question...answer
one reason for the problem

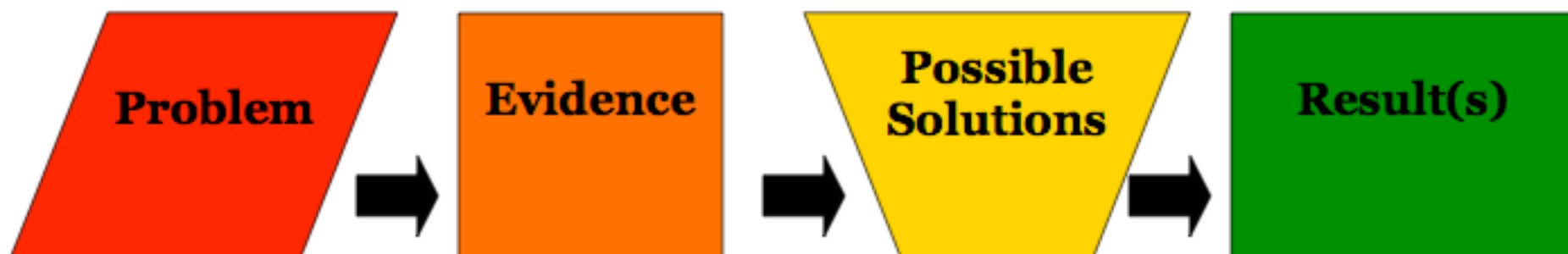
the dilemma is
the question is
a solution
one answer is



Problem and Solution



Identifies a problem and a solution to the problem



because
since
the problem is
the puzzle is
the dilemma is
the question is

as a consequence
this led to
so that
nevertheless
accordingly
one reason for the
problem

if
so
perhaps
possibly

a solution is
solutions are
this resulted in
one answer is
therefore

Problem - Solution

For many years, Mrs. Jacobs wanted to grow a vegetable garden, but she did not have enough room for a garden. Her house sat on a small piece of land, just barely big enough for the house and porch. She collected empty plastic jugs, such as from milk and large containers of snack food. She put small holes in the bottom, filled them with dirt, and planted seeds. After weeks of watering, the plants started to grow. Now she has tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and broccoli growing on her porch.

Text Structure Foldable

*Add notes to the
PROBLEM-SOLUTION
section of your
foldable.*

Inside tabs:

Left Side-

- Visuals only

Right Side-

- Text Only

Description
Sequence
Compare- Contrast
Cause- Effect
Problem- Solution

Let's Practice!

With a partner:

Identify the text structure of each paragraph.

Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each text structure.

Text Structure Practice

Identify the text structure of the following passages. Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each structure.

_____ 1. Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

_____ 2. Chimpanzees and humans are alike in many ways. A baby chimp laughs when its mother tickles it. After chimpanzees fight, they kiss and make up. When one chimpanzee comforts another, it gives it a hug or pat on the back. There are, of course, many ways that chimpanzees and humans are different. Chimpanzees are smaller and stronger than humans. An adult male chimpanzee stands three or four feet tall and weighs about 100 pounds. But a chimpanzee can lift more weight than a man who is six feet tall.

_____ 3. Chimps live in groups and like each other a lot, but sometimes they fight. Because they don't want to stay angry at each other after a fight, they make up by holding a hand out to the other and kissing. They show they are sorry with pats and hugs. Then the anger goes away.

_____ 4. A chimpanzee's body is made for climbing and swinging in the trees. First, it uses its long arms to reach a branch. Next, with its flexible hands and feet, it grabs and hooks on to the branch. Finally, it swings from that branch to another branch of tree.

_____ 5. It is fun to read about chimpanzees. All wild chimpanzees live in Africa. They live mostly in thick rain forests and in woodlands. There are two types, or species, of chimpanzees—the common chimpanzee and the bonobo, also known as the pygmy chimpanzee.

Example:

Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

Signal Words:

Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

Your Turn!

With a partner:

Identify the text structure of each paragraph.

Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each text structure.

Text Structure Practice

Identify the text structure of the following passages. Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each structure.

_____ 1. Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

_____ 2. Chimpanzees and humans are alike in many ways. A baby chimp laughs when its mother tickles it. After chimpanzees fight, they kiss and make up. When one chimpanzee comforts another, it gives it a hug or pat on the back. There are, of course, many ways that chimpanzees and humans are different. Chimpanzees are smaller and stronger than humans. An adult male chimpanzee stands three or four feet tall and weighs about 100 pounds. But a chimpanzee can lift more weight than a man who is six feet tall.

_____ 3. Chimps live in groups and like each other a lot, but sometimes they fight. Because they don't want to stay angry at each other after a fight, they make up by holding a hand out to the other and kissing. They show they are sorry with pats and hugs. Then the anger goes away.

_____ 4. A chimpanzee's body is made for climbing and swinging in the trees. First, it uses its long arms to reach a branch. Next, with its flexible hands and feet, it grabs and hooks on to the branch. Finally, it swings from that branch to another branch of tree.

_____ 5. It is fun to read about chimpanzees. All wild chimpanzees live in Africa. They live mostly in thick rain forests and in woodlands. There are two types, or species, of chimpanzees—the common chimpanzee and the bonobo, also known as the pygmy chimpanzee.

How did you do?

Problem & Solution 1. Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

Comparison & Contrast 2. Chimpanzees and humans are alike in many ways. A baby chimp laughs when its mother tickles it. After chimpanzees fight, they kiss and make up. When one chimpanzee comforts another, it gives it a hug or pat on the back. There are, of course, many ways that chimpanzees and humans are different. Chimpanzees are smaller and stronger than humans. An adult male chimpanzee stands three or four feet tall and weighs about 100 pounds. But a chimpanzee can lift more weight than a man who is six feet tall.

Cause and Effect 3. Chimps live in groups and like each other a lot, but sometimes they fight. Because they don't want to stay angry at each other after a fight, they make up by holding a hand out to the other and kissing. They show they are sorry with pats and hugs. Then the anger goes away.

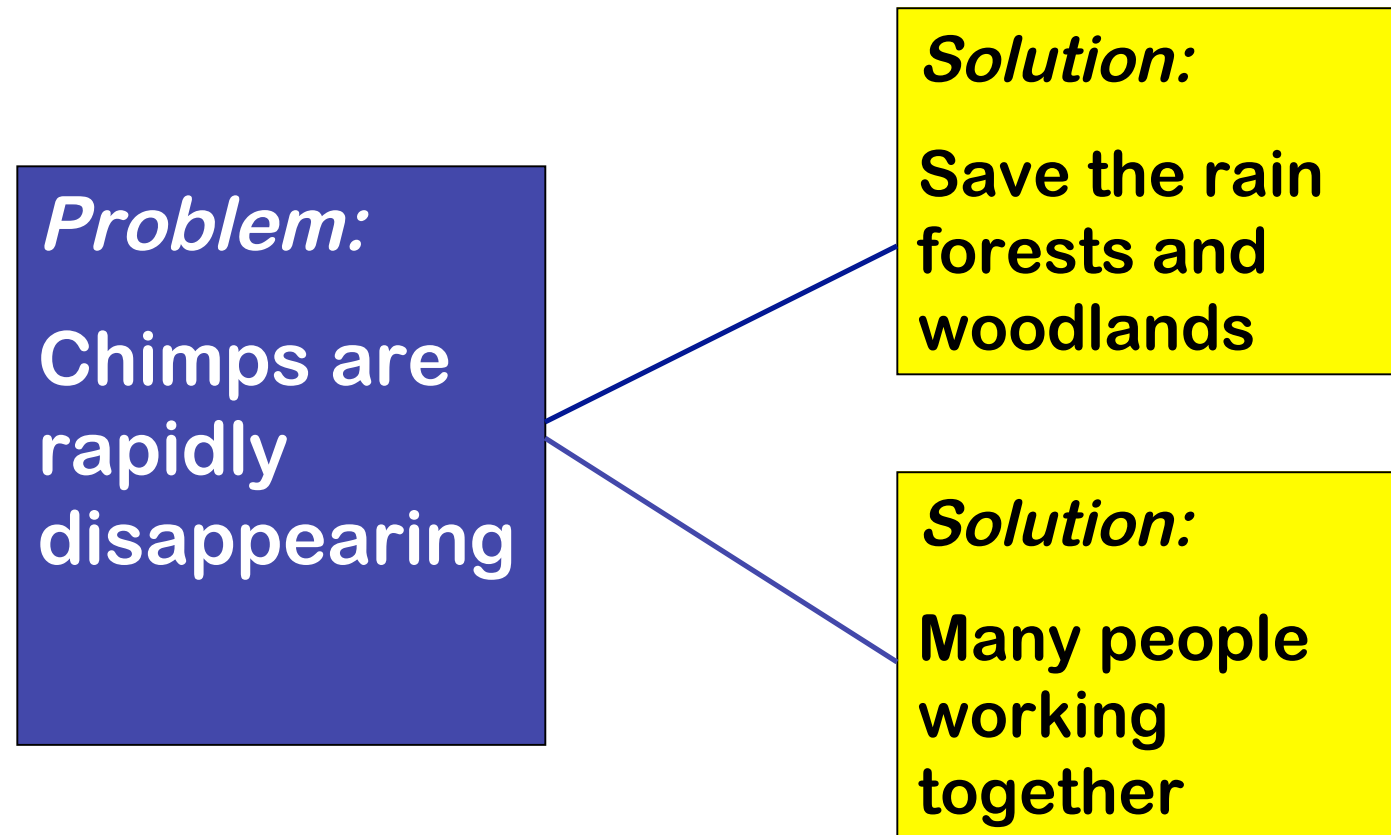
Sequence 4. A chimpanzee's body is made for climbing and swinging in the trees. First, it uses its long arms to reach a branch. Next, with its flexible hands and feet, it grabs and hooks on to the branch. Finally, it swings from that branch to another branch of tree.

Description 5. It is fun to read about chimpanzees. All wild chimpanzees live in Africa. They live mostly in thick rain forests and in woodlands. There are two types, or species, of chimpanzees—the common chimpanzee and the bonobo, also known as the pygmy chimpanzee.

Next Task - Create Graphic Organizers

Example for #1

Text Structure: Problem and Solution



Your Turn!

With a partner:

Identify the text structure of each paragraph.

Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each text structure.

Text Structure Practice

Identify the text structure of the following passages. Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each structure.

_____ 1. Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

_____ 2. Chimpanzees and humans are alike in many ways. A baby chimp laughs when its mother tickles it. After chimpanzees fight, they kiss and make up. When one chimpanzee comforts another, it gives it a hug or pat on the back. There are, of course, many ways that chimpanzees and humans are different. Chimpanzees are smaller and stronger than humans. An adult male chimpanzee stands three or four feet tall and weighs about 100 pounds. But a chimpanzee can lift more weight than a man who is six feet tall.

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Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

- Expository text generally contains *one or more* of the five types of text structures. Being able to identify the MAIN text structure provides readers the most help in understanding the text.

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

- Text structure can be identified at the word level:

“first”

This one signal words provides a clue that the structure might be SEQUENCE.

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

- Text structure can be identified at the sentence level:

“Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon.”

This sentence might be SEQUENCE...or...

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

- Text structure can be identified in multiple sentences taken as a whole unit of meaning:

“Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. He had a degree in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University.”

*Taken together, these sentence are
DESCRIPTION.*

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

- Text structure can be identified in “chunks” - usually paragraphs or multiple paragraphs underneath a heading:

“Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. He had a degree in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University. Buzz Aldren was the second man on the moon. Following in their famous footsteps, Gene Cernan became the last man to walk on the moon in 1972.”

Taken together as a chunk, this MAIN structure of this paragraph is SEQUENCE.

Let's Practice!

On your own:

Identify the MAIN text structure of each paragraph.

Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each text structure.

Text Structure Practice

Directions: Label the *main* text structure of each of the following paragraphs. Underline signal words and clues that helped to determine the structure.

1. All crocodilians are reptiles with long snouts, long tails, four short legs, tough skin, and sharp teeth. Members of the crocodilian family include alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and gavials. Crocodilians live in warm weather throughout the year and they spend part of their time in the water and part of their time on land. Almost all crocodilians grow to be very large, with the largest more than twenty feet long. There are two kinds of alligators, 14 kinds of crocodiles, eight kinds of caimans, and one kind of gavial.

Main Text Structure: _____.

2. Recently, scientists have gained an understanding of a crocodile's reproductive activity. Crocodiles mate in the water, where the buoyancy keeps them from crushing each other. Prior to mating, there are stylized postures, jumping, submerged bubble blowing, and snout contact. After mating, hard-shelled eggs are laid in a nest, in a hole scooped in the sand. When it is time to hatch, the infant crocodiles begin a loud chirping sound that leads the female to the nest, which she excavates. Finally, when all the babies are accounted for, the mother crocodile transports them to the shallow water where they will remain under adult protection for weeks or months.

Main Text Structure: _____.

3. On the river banks of the Nile River, home to some crocodiles, there are many kinds of birds, sometimes called crocodile birds because they are always hopping around crocodiles. The big crocodiles and the birds are useful to each other for several reasons. The birds eat flies and leeches that they find on the crocodiles' skin and mouths. In this way, the birds get a good meal and the crocodiles get rid of the leeches and flies. Sometimes an enemy frightens the birds who scream and fly away. As a result of the noise, the birds give the crocodiles a warning of danger.

Main Text Structure: _____.

Let's Try it with a Longer Text!

Feeling the Heat

World Report: January 12, 2007 Vol. #12 Iss. #14

-By Kathryn R. Satterfield

Polar bears thrive in environments too harsh for most animals. For much of the year, they live and hunt on the frozen Arctic sea ice. Nature has prepared them for the harsh conditions. But nothing has prepared the bears for the danger that threatens the only home they know.

The polar bears' world is melting. Studies show that the permanent polar ice has declined by 9.8% every 10 years since 1978. Scientists blame global warming for the shrinking polar ice. They say that climate change is harming polar bear populations.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Department of the Interior said that it was taking steps to list the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The action came on the heels of a World Conservation Union decision to move polar bears to threatened status on its Red List of Threatened Species. The World Conservation Union warns that polar bear populations could fall by 30% over the next 45 years.

A Bear of a Problem

Scientists estimate that 20,000 to 25,000 polar bears live in the Arctic. They are

Author's Purpose & Text Structures

There is often a connection between the author's purpose for writing and the main text structure.

Pre and Post Reading Strategies:

- Make PREDICTIONS about **author's purpose** and **main text structure** before reading
- Make CONNECTIONS between **text structure** and **author's purpose** after reading

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A Bear of a Problem

Scientists estimate that 20,000 to 25,000 polar bears live in the Arctic. They are spread across five countries. Approximately 4,700 of the bears live in the U.S., within Alaskan waters.

Polar bears depend on the sea ice for their survival. Seals, their main prey, breed on the ice. "The sea ice is more than just this platform that the bears walk over," says Andrew Derocher, a scientist who studies North American polar bear populations. "Without it, they can't exist."

Some melting and refreezing of the polar ice is natural. But in a warmer world, these cycles speed up, and bears have less time to hunt. Normally, they have three months in the spring when they pack on the pounds. The extra fat is used later, when the bears are not actively hunting. Pregnant females depend on this stored fat to nourish their cubs.

Since the early 1990s, scientists have seen a drop in polar bears' body weight. Fewer cubs are being born, and fewer survive. In Canada's Western Hudson Bay, the polar bear population dropped 22% from 1987 to 2004.

To Protect and Save

The Department of the Interior has a year to make its final decision. If the bears gain threatened status, the department will work with businesses and international officials to set strict rules to protect the bear and spur its recovery.

The polar bear's plight may seem distant to some. But Derocher told TFK that it is up to this generation to stop global warming and its dire consequences. He urges kids to think about what they can do to help the environment. Even simple steps—turning off the lights, walking instead of riding in a car—can really make a difference. "I'm optimistic about humans' ability to deal with this," he says.

More Trouble Ahead?

Global warming is pushing many species toward extinction. Here are some animals that especially worry scientists.

Butterflies

Researchers have tracked how the ranges of many butterflies are shifting and, in many cases, shrinking. In the U.S., scientists are studying the movements of the butterfly known as Edith's checkerspot. Though butterflies are sturdier than they look, scientists believe many species will not survive the impact of climate change.

Red-Breasted Goose

More than two dozen bird species—including this goose, which breeds in the Arctic—are officially threatened by global warming. Half are seabirds whose food supplies are smaller because of climate change. Other coastal species are at risk because of rising sea levels.

African Elephant

Global warming threatens to shrink the elephant's range in Africa. Climate change also affects its food supply.

More Practice!

1. Read the next passage provided by your teacher.
2. Skim and scan the article. Make predictions about author's purpose and main text structure.
3. Highlight and mark the text to identify the various text structures present in the passage.
4. Determine the MAIN text structure.
5. Decide why the author chose to use that particular MAIN text structure. How did it help support the author's purpose?