

Text Structures: Graphic Organizers, Signal Words, Guiding Questions

Three Types of Writing

Argumentative	Informative	Narrative
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Five Common Text Structures

Elaboration/ Description	Claim & Evidence	Compare & Contrast	Cause & Effect	Sequence: Chronological, Process & Plot
<i>Elaboration involves using intricate detail to further develop a process or claim. Description is detail used to develop people, places, or things.</i>	<i>Claims are the opinions or assertions of the author. Evidence is what the author uses to prove his claim is correct.</i>	<i>Comparison shows how two or more things, points, or people are alike; contrast explains how they are different.</i>	<i>Cause explains WHY something happened. Effect describes WHAT happened as a consequence.</i>	<i>Sequence shows the order of things. Use a sequence structure to develop a process or plot of a story.</i>

Guiding Questions

Use to help comprehend, clarify, and analyze

Elaboration/ Description	Claim & Evidence	Compare & Contrast	Cause & Effect	Sequence: Chronological, Process & Plot
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is being described? • What are its most important attributes? • What are the characters, places, and objects in the text passage? • Why is this description important? • What is the concept? • To what category does it belong? • How does it work? • What does it do? • How are the pieces related or connected? • What are the functions of its pieces? • What are examples of things that share some but not all of its characteristics or attributes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the claim/proposition? • Why is this important? • Who will this impact? • What evidence is given to support the claim/proposition (from experience, from facts and statistics or from texts)? • What reasoning is given using the evidence (commentary)? (How reliable is the evidence?) • What might an opponent say against this claim/proposition (rebuttals/counterclaim)? • What arguments can be made against the rebuttals (counterclaims)? • What are the consequences or benefits of this position? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is being compared and contrasted? • What categories of characteristics or attributes are used to compare and contrast these things? • How are the things alike or similar? • How are the things not alike or different? • What are the most important qualities or attributes that make them different? • On what basis is the choice of qualities logical or reasonable? • What can we conclude about these things or items? • Why are these things being compared or contrasted? • When did the comparison/contrast structure emerge? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is it that happens? • What causes it to happen? • What is the effect? • What are the important elements or factors that cause this effect? • How do these factors or elements interrelate? • Will this result always happen from these causes? Why or why not? • How would the result change if the elements or factors were different? • What is the cause/effect process the author is describing? • Why did a cause/effect structure emerge? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is being described in sequence? • Why did a chronological order pattern emerge? • What are the major steps in this sequence? • What details should be included (people, places, etc.) with each step? • Is there a part in the sequence where the events are more important than the others? • Is the sequence of events or ideas presented or designed for the most effect? • Is there a conflict in this sequence? Where does it get resolved? • Why is the sequence important?

Graphic Organizers

Use critical thinking to create a graphic organizer appropriate for a writing task.

Elaboration/ Description	Claim & Evidence	Compare & Contrast	Cause & Effect	Sequence: Chronological, Process & Plot

Signal Words

Use to see relationships between a writer's words and the structure of a text

Elaboration/ Description	Claim & Evidence	Compare & Contrast	Cause & Effect	Sequence: Chronological, Process & Plot
<p>includes to begin with for instance also for example to illustrate another first in other words identified by between characterized by explains shows in fact in addition such as furthermore reflects second most important associated with near among</p>	<p>believe suggests reasons for example states position proposes evidence asserts claims defends the question is one answer is therefore nevertheless persuades opposes argues refutes against supports</p>	<p>however but same as -er, -est are similar as well as on the contrary as opposed to share common traits both unlike different from -er than just like have in common difference between whereas on the other hand not only...but also</p>	<p>because therefore as a result of so that accordingly thus because of may be due to for this reason due to since consequently this has led to nevertheless if... then subsequently in order to effects of the cause was this led to (caused)</p>	<p>first, second next, later, then before/after beginning, middle, end initially eventually during since concluding subsequently while now finally earlier previously following prior to preceding meanwhile for the past simultaneously</p>