All About Text Structure

Name:

There are lots of different ways an author can structure a piece of literature. We are going to focus on these six:

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



#1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Information in the passage is organized in order of time.

#2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Information is organized in steps or a process is explained in the order in which it occurs.

#3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Explains reasons why something happened; or explains the effects of something

#4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - A problem is described and a response or solution is proposed or explained.

(Result)

(Possible solution)

(Problem)

#5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Two or more things are described; similarities and differences are discussed.

Topic

Different

Alike

#6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - The author describes a topic by listing characteristics, features, attributes, and examples

SIGNAL WORDS:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chronological** | **Description** | **Sequence** | **Compare & Contrast** | **Cause & Effect** | **Problem & Solution** |
| • first• second• third• later• next• before• then• finally• after• when• later• since• now• previously• actual use of dates | • for example• characteristics• for instance• such as• is like• including• to illustrate | • first• second• third• later• next• before• then• finally• after• when• later• since• now• previously• actual use of dates | • however• nevertheless• on the other hand• but• similarly• although• also• in contrast• different• alike• same as• either/or• in the same way• just like• just as• likewise• in comparison• where as | • if/then • reasons why • as a result • therefore • because • consequently • since • so that • for • hence • due to • thus • this led to  | • problem is • dilemma is • if/then • because • so that • question/answer • puzzle is solved  |