

TEXT STRUCTURES

Description/ Example



Signal Words:
for example, for instance, also, such as, in addition, specifically, features, characteristics, furthermore, in fact

Ask: What specific person, place, or idea is being described?

Look for a topic word or phrase and for synonyms.

Problem/Solution



Signal Words:
problem, issue, since, as a result, so, difficulty, conflict, leads to, causes, question, solution, idea, answer, fix, resolve

Ask: What is the problem and what is the solution?

Look for the problem first and then the solution.

Compare/ Contrast



Signal Words:
similar, both, same, alike, but, different, in the same way, on the other hand, however, bigger than, although, parallels, smaller than

Ask: What is being compared?

How are they the same? How are they different?

Cause & Effect



Signal Words:
cause, because, so, since, on that account, therefore, due to, as a result, for this reason, hence, made, consequently, because

Ask: What happened and why did it happen?

Remember you are looking for a cause, not a solution.

Chronological/ Sequence



Signal Words:
first, second, third, then, next, after that, last, specific times, days, or years, before, after, later, when, until

Ask: Is this event taking place over time?

Look for steps or references to time, such as dates.