

Organizational Patterns- Identifying Text Structure

The text structure will be:	If the author wants you to know:	Key Words or Transitions:
Cause-Effect	How or why an event happened; what resulted from an event	Resulting in, Because of this, Consequently, Accordingly
Chronological order/ Sequencing	The order of events, or steps in a process	First, Second, Third, After, Initially, Previously, etc.; Years in <i>every</i> paragraph (two dates does not mean the article uses this pattern)
Compare/ contrast	How two or more things are alike or different	Likewise, Similarly, in contrast, Even though, On the other hand
Description/ Categorization	How something looks, works, etc., a definition or characterization	Identify, Generally, Consists of, To illustrate
Problem-Solution	What's wrong and how to fix it	(A call to action) Challenges, Dilemma, Obstacles, One solution, The problem facing, To overcome this, What was discovered
Position-Reason	Why a point or idea should be supported; what's wrong with an idea	For this reason, It can be established, It will be argued, Must, Need, Should, Therefore, This view is supported by,
Order of Importance	A series of ideas listed according to their value	"Five Ways to Flunk a Test" Hierarchy, Least of all, Most importantly, Of lesser importance, Priority, The three most, The top ten, etc.