

Identifying Text Structure

If the author wants you to know...	The text structure will be...
How or why an event happened; what resulted from an event	Cause-Effect
The order of events/steps in a process	Chronological Order/Sequencing
How two or more things are alike/different	Compare/Contrast
How something looks, moves, works, etc.;; a definition or characterization	Description/Categorization
What's wrong and how to fix it	Problem-Solution
Why a point or idea should be supported; what's wrong with an idea	Position-Reason

Elements of Narrative Text				
Examples	Fiction Autobiographies Legends	Historical Fiction Biographies Folktales	Science Fiction Fantasies Myths	Plays Mysteries
Purpose	To entertain or inform			
Characteristics	<p>Follow a familiar story structure</p> <p>Beginning: Introduction of setting, characters, and conflict</p> <p>Middle: Progression of plot, which includes rising action, climax, and falling action</p> <p>End: Resolution or solution to the problem</p>			
Narrative Terms (student-friendly definitions)	Exposition	Introduction of setting, characters, background information, and conflict		
	Setting	Time and place		
	Characters	People, animals, or other entities in the text		
	Conflict	Problem		
	Internal Conflict	A character's struggle within himself/herself		
	External Conflict	A character's struggle with another character		
	Rising Action	Events leading up to the climax; trying to solve the problem		
	Climax	Emotional high point of the story; conflict is addressed		
	Falling Action	Consequences or events caused by the climax		
	Resolution	Final outcome		

Adapted with permission from University of Texas Center for Reading and Language Arts. (2003). Special education reading project secondary institute — Effective instruction for secondary struggling readers: Research-based practices. Austin, TX: Author.

Elements of Expository Text		
Examples	Newspapers Textbooks Magazine Articles Brochures Catalogues	
Purpose	To inform	
Characteristics	Titles Headings Subheadings Boldface Words Charts Tables Diagrams Graphics	
Organization	One expository passage may be organized using several different text structures.	
Types of Organization	Cause-Effect	How or why an event happened; what resulted from an event
	Chronology/Sequence	The order of events/steps in a process
	Compare/Contrast	How two or more things are alike/different
	Description/Categorization	How something looks, moves, works, etc.; a definition or characterization
	Problem-Solution	What's wrong and how to fix it
	Position-Reason	Why a point or idea should be supported; what's wrong with an idea

Adapted with permission from University of Texas Center for Reading and Language Arts. (2003). Special education reading project secondary institute — Effective instruction for secondary struggling readers: Research-based practices. Austin, TX: Author.