Text Structures

What is a text structure?

"Text structure" refers to how a piece of text is built.

Why use different structures?

Writers use different structures to build their ideas.

Each text structure communicates ideas in a different way

Chronological Order

*   Authors use chronological order to explain how things happen in order

*   Chronological order is also called sequence or time order

Chronological Order: Example

Have you ever made macaroni and cheese? It's simple! First, boil some water and make some macaroni. Then, make your cheese sauce. After the cheese sauce is ready, mix it with the macaroni. Bake the entire thing in the oven. Finally, it's time to eat!

Chronological Order: Clue Words

* First
* Next
* Later
* Then
* Finally
* Dates- ex Tuesday, January, The 18th

Compare/Contrast

*   This structure is used to explain how things are similar and different.

Compare/Contrast: Example

Although Verizon and AT & T have some similarities, they are also very different. Verizon charges anywhere from $35 to $45 a month. If your bill is late they charge an additional $10 for a late fee; on the other hand, AT & T charges $15 a month for only local calls. They charge no late fees for late payments; however, with long distance the bill would total about $50 a month. Both Verizon and AT&T offer necessary service to the public; However, their service rates are different.

Compare/Contrast: Clue Words

* Both
* But
* While
* On the other hand

Cause/Effect

When a writer wants to explain how one event leads to another.

Cause/Effect Example

The night's snowstorm had many effects. People were out shoveling snow from their sidewalks. The power lines were draped with ice. Snow plows drove down every street. Children were the happiest of all. The unexpected snow caused school to be cancelled!

Cause/Effect: Clue Words

* Cause
* Effect
* as a result
* Consequently
* So

Problem/Solution

When an author wants to explain a problem, and then show one or more solutions.

Problem/Solution Example

After the fire, thousands of people were left homeless. Providing all of these people with food, clean water, and shelter was a huge task. Luckily, the city quickly formed a Relief and Aid Society. This group started giving out the food donations that were pouring in from other cities. The society built places for people to live, gathered the tools that people needed to rebuild their houses, and even vaccinated 64,000 people against smallpox.

Problem/Solution: Clue Words

* Problem
* Synonyms for *problem:* difficulty, struggle, uncertainty, worry, threat, and trouble
* Solution
* Synonyms for *solution:* possibility, hope, bright spot, answer, and future
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