

Five Basic Types of Organizational Text Structures

Description

Writers use description to describe something.

Signal words include: also, another, beside, characteristics, for example, for instance, in front, is a feature of, such as, looks like, sounds like, most important, near, to begin with, to illustrate, an example

Sequence or Timeline

Writers use sequence to explain how events or steps in a process take place.

Signal words include: after, at the same time, before, finally, first, second, third, following, next, now, on, preceding, then, when, soon, not long after

Compare and Contrast

Writers use compare and contrast to explain similarities and differences.

Signal words include: similar, like, unlike, likewise, different from, although, also, both, but, however in contrast, on the other hand, too, yet, instead of, alike, as well as, not only ...but also, same as, either ...or, as opposed to

Cause and Effect

Writers use cause and effect to explain how an event caused another to occur.

Signal words include: as a result, because of, consequently, effects, causes, for this reason, If...then, since, produce, this led to, therefore, in order to, reason why, effect of, may be due to

Problem and Solution

Writers use problem and solution to describe a problem and the steps taken to solve it.

Signal words include: solution, the problem is, one answer is, answer, because, difficulty, solution, resolution, help, solve, steps taken to solve (prevent), the question is..., the problem is..., the puzzle is..., to solve this..., dilemma is, one answer is ..., one reason for the problem is...