

DLI STUDENT REFERENCE: Informational Text Structures 5-2

Identifying the informational text structure that an author is using allows you to improve your reading comprehension by knowing what ideas to look for in a text. Using these informational text structures in your writing provides organization and helps your reader understand your topic.

1-Description

The purpose of this writing is to describe some topic.

- focuses on one thing and its components
- includes features, characteristics, and examples
- describes appearance, function, or importance
- explores how the topic is classified (what type it is)

2-Sequence

The purpose of this writing is to describe a series of events or explain a procedure.

- includes events in chronological order
- explains steps to do or make something
- describes a cycle

3-Compare/Contrast

The purpose of this writing is to explain differences and similarities between two or more things.

- includes facts, details, characteristics, and examples
- differentiates types within a group or parts of a whole

4-Cause/Effect

The purpose of this writing is to explain why something happens.

- includes what happened-the effect
- explains why it happened-the cause

5-Problem/Solution

The purpose of this writing is to tell about a problem and present one or more possible solutions.

- describes the problem and what is causing the problem
- explains why it is a problem
- includes actions that have attempted to solve the problem
- presents one or more possible solutions and their pros/cons