

# STUDENT REFERENCE: Informational Text Structures

Identifying the informational text structure that an author is using allows you to improve your reading comprehension. 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