What are Text Structures?

Organizational patterns in writing
- Description
- Sequence
- Problem and Solution
- Cause and Effect
- Comparison and Contrast
Why is it important that readers can recognize and understand text structures?

(Besides that it's on the state assessment!)

Pencils Down!
Get ready to analyze the image on the next slide.

You will be given one minute to study the picture on the next slide. Then you will have one minute asked to reproduce it.

You have one minute to draw!

Pencils Down!
Let's try another one!

You will be given one minute to study the picture on the next slide. Then you will have one minute asked to reproduce it.
You have one minute to draw!

What does this have to do with READING?

Text Structures?

Pencils Down!
Let’s try something else -- this time using numbers!

You will be given one minute to memorize the number on the next slide. Then you will have one minute asked to reproduce it.

17766024365911

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Write the number from memory!

17766024365911

Let’s try again but think . . .

American Revolution / Declaration of Independence

Minutes / hours / days

Emergency

1776
60-24-365
911

What does this have to do with READING?

Text Structures?

The better a reader understands text structures, the higher the comprehension.
Understanding text structures is the KEY to unlocking expository text!!

Expository Text has NO PLOT LINE to Support Comprehension

The triangle represents the key elements of expository text:
- **Beginning**: Exposition
- **Middle**: Rising Action
- **End**: Falling Action

Text Structure Research

"Many students experience problems comprehending expository text....One reason is that they can’t see the basic structure of the text. Some students get lost in the words and can’t see the big picture."

Dymock, 1998; Dymock & Nicholson, 1999

Text Structure Foldable

**Five-Tab Book**
1. Fold a sheet of paper in half like a hot dog.
2. Fold the paper so that one-third is exposed and two-thirds are covered.
3. Fold the two-thirds section in half.
4. Fold the one-third section (single thickness) backward to form a fold line.

The paper will be divided into fifths when opened. Use this foldable to organize information about five counters, dates, events, and so on.

**Label outside tabs:**
- Description
- Sequence
- Compare & Contrast
- Cause & Effect
- Problem & Solution
Next we will review each text structure. Make notes inside your foldable as we go.

Inside tabs:
Left Side-
• Visuals only
Right Side-
• Text Only

The music was blasting so loud, Marco thought his ears would burst. The stage was filled with bright blue laser beams and a shower of yellow and green paper streamers. All around him, the crowd was singing and dancing wildly.

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Derek finished his math homework, then worked on his science project, and saved his reading assignment for last. When he was finished reading, he closed the book, turned off the lamp on his desk, and went to bed.

Although both cities have experienced great tragedies, Greensburg is very different from New York City. There are no tall skyscrapers in Greensburg. All you can see are fields and sky. Instead of taxicab horns and fire truck sirens, it is so quiet at night that you can hear the crickets chirping.
Cause and Effect

Every spring, shortly after the tulips bloom, farmers in Holland go through the tulip fields and cut the blooms off the tulips. This seems strange, because it leaves a field full of green stems. However, it makes the colorful tulip blooms grow back even bigger and stronger later that spring.

Problem and Solution

Identifies a problem and a solution to the problem

Signal Words

Problem: the problem is
the puzzle is
solve
question...answer
one reason for the problem

Solution: the dilemma is
the question is
a solution
one answer is

Problem - Solution

For many years, Mrs. Jacobs wanted to grow a vegetable garden, but she did not have enough room for a garden. Her house sat on a small piece of land, just barely big enough for the house and porch. She collected empty plastic jugs, such as from milk and large containers of snack food. She put small holes in the bottom, filled them with dirt, and planted seeds. After weeks of watering, the plants started to grow. Now she has tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and broccoli growing on her porch.

Text Structure Foldable

Add notes to the CAUSE-EFFECT section of your foldable.

Inside tabs:
Left Side:
• Visuals only
Right Side:
• Text Only

Add notes to the PROBLEM-SOLUTION section of your foldable.

Inside tabs:
Left Side:
• Visuals only
Right Side:
• Text Only

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Let’s Practice!

With a partner:
Identify the text structure of each paragraph.
Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each text structure.

Example:

Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

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Problem: Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

Solution: Save the rain forests and woodlands

How did you do?

Problem: Wild chimpanzees are rapidly disappearing. Some people are trying to solve this problem. Otherwise, chimpanzees may one day exist only in zoos. People are trying to save the rain forests and woodlands where the chimps live from being cut down. It will take many people working together to solve this problem.

Solution: Many people working together

Next Task - Create Graphic Organizers
Your Turn!

With a partner:
Identify the text structure of each paragraph.
Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each text structure.

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

• Expository text generally contains one or more of the five types of text structures. Being able to identify the MAIN text structure provides readers the most help in understanding the text.

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

• Text structure can be identified at the word level:
  “first”

  This one signal words provides a clue that the structure might be SEQUENCE.

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

• Text structure can be identified at the sentence level:

  “Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon.”

  This sentence might be SEQUENCE…or…

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

• Text structure can be identified in multiple sentences taken as a whole unit of meaning:

  “Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. He had a degree in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University.”

  Taken together, these sentence are DESCRIPTION.

Identifying the MAIN Text Structure

• Text structure can be identified in “chunks” - usually paragraphs or multiple paragraphs underneath a heading:

  “Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon. He had a degree in aeronautical engineering from Purdue University. Buzz Aldren was the second man on the moon. Following in their famous footsteps, Gene Cernan became the last man to walk on the moon in 1972.”

  Taken together as a chunk, this MAIN structure of this paragraph is SEQUENCE.

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Let’s Practice!

On your own:

Identify the MAIN text structure of each paragraph.

Underline signal words and clues that helped you determine each text structure.

Author’s Purpose & Text Structures

There is often a connection between the author’s purpose for writing and the main text structure.

Pre and Post Reading Strategies:
• Make PREDICTIONS about author’s purpose and main text structure before reading
• Make CONNECTIONS between text structure and author’s purpose after reading

A Bear of a Problem

Scientists estimate that 20,000 to 25,000 polar bears live in the Arctic. They are spread across five countries. Approximately 4,700 of the bears live in the U.S., within Alaskan waters.

Polar bears depend on the sea ice for their survival. Seals, their main prey, breed on the ice. “The sea ice is more than just this platform that the bears walk over,” says Andrew Derocher, a scientist who studies North American polar bear populations. “Without it, they can’t exist.”

Some melting and refreezing of the sea ice is natural. But in a warmer world, these cycles speed up, and bears have less time to hunt. Normally, they have three months in the spring when they can hunt on the ice. The extra fat is used later, when the bears are not actively hunting. Pregnant females depend on this stored fat to nourish their cubs.

Since the early 1990s, scientists have seen a drop in polar bears’ body weight. Fatter cubs are being born, and fewer survive. In Canada’s Western Hudson Bay, the polar bear population dropped 22% from 1987 to 2004.

Let’s Try it with a Longer Text!

Feeling the Heat


—By Kathryn R. Satterfield

Polar bears thrive in environments too harsh for most animals. For much of the year, they live and hunt on the frozen Arctic sea ice. Nature has prepared them for the harsh conditions. But nothing has prepared the bears for the danger that threatens the only home they know.

The polar bear’s world is melting. Studies show that the permanent polar ice has declined by 45% over the last 40 years since 1978. Scientists blame global warming for the diminishing polar ice. They say that climate change is harming polar bear populations.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Department of the Interior said that it was taking steps to list the polar bears as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The action came on the heels of a world Conservation Union decision to move polar bears to threatened status on its Red List of Threatened Species. The World Conservation Union warns that polar bear populations could fall by 30% over the next 45 years.

To Protect and Save

The Department of the Interior has a year to make its final decision. If the polar bears gain threatened status, the department will work with businesses and communities to implement rules to protect the bear and spur its recovery.

The polar bear’s plight may seem distant to some. But Derocher said, “It’s up to us to take action to stop global warming and its dire consequences.” He urges kids to think about what they can do to help the environment. “Go outside, turn off the lights, walk instead of riding in a car.”

Almost all kids are already doing something to help. “I’m optimistic about humans’ ability to deal with this,” he says.

More Trouble Ahead!

Global warming is pushing many species toward extinction. Here are some animals that especially need help.

Butterflies

Biodiversity has declined from the ranges of many butterflies and other insects, in many cases, as a result of changes in the movements of the butterfly known as E. V. discophora. They have become rare, and so are many other species that they live in. Scientists believe many species will not survive the impact of climate change.

Frogs

More than 2,000 species of frogs are at risk of extinction. Some scientists believe the loss of frogs is because of climate change. Other causes are habitat loss and disease.

African Elephant

Climate warming threatens to increase the elephants’ range in Africa. Climate change also affects its food supplies.
More Practice!

1. Read the next passage provided by your teacher.
2. Skim and scan the article. Make predictions about author’s purpose and main text structure.
3. Highlight and mark the text to identify the various text structures present in the passage.
4. Determine the MAIN text structure.
5. Decide why the author chose to use that particular MAIN text structure. How did it help support the author’s purpose?