

Text Structure

Text structure has to do with perspective – you need to structure your thoughts and your writing in order for the text to make sense to the reader. This means that a well-structured academic text communicates the writer's intentions and results to the reader. In such a text, the structure acts like a framework, in that it enables the material to be presented in a coherent and logical manner. A text without structure, on the other hand, is difficult to read as it leaves the reader unprepared for what will come next, and the ideas that the writer wishes to convey to his or her reader therefore risk being lost or misunderstood.

What Is Text Structure?

- The term “text structure” refers to how information is organized in a passage (text). In other words, the manner in which written content is arranged is known as text structure. The structure of a text can change many times in a work and even within a paragraph.

° A text structure is the framework of a text’s beginning, middle, and end. Different expository genres have different purposes and different audiences, and so they require different text structures. Beginnings and endings help link the text into a coherent whole.

- **The beginning**, orients the reader to the purpose of the writing by introducing the topic, thesis, or argument (for expository writing). A good beginning also sets up expectations for the purpose and style of the piece.
- **The middle**, the organization of the middle of a piece of writing depends on the genre. There are five basic organizational structures:

a. Compare and Contrast: two or more things are described (Their similarities and differences are discussed). In other words, it discusses two ideas, events, or phenomena, showing how they are different and how they are similar.

A compare and contrast text structure has **signal (indicative) words** in it, such as: alike, similar, different, however, whereas, and on the other hand, but/whereas, although, in contrast/comparison ...

b. Sequence /or Process: information is organized in steps, or a process is explained in the order in which it occurs. **Key words**: First, second, third..., later, next, before, then, finally, after/later, when, since, now/previously

c. Description: Describes a topic by listing characteristics, features, attributes, and examples. **Key words**: for example, characteristics, for instance, such as, including, to illustrate...

d. Problem and Solution: a problem is described and a response or solution is

proposed or explained. **Key words:** problem is, dilemma is, if/then, because...

e.Cause and Effect: explanations or reasons for phenomena are provided. **Key words:** reasons why, as a result, therefore, because, consequently, for, due to...

- **The ending:** is to briefly synthesize the most relevant points, contributing the knowledge explored throughout the text , but being careful not to repeat exactly what you have already written (avoid redundancy!), Or to add new information . Strong endings for expository texts can summarize the highlights, or restate the main points.

The basic organizational structures:

TEXT STRUCTURE	DEFINITION	KEY WORDS	QUESTIONS
1/Compare and Contrast	Discuss two ideas, events, or phenomena, showing how they are different and how they are similar	However/yet, nevertheless, on the other hand, but/where as, similarly, although, also/likewise, in contrast / comparison, different, either/or, in the same way/just as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What items are being compared? • In what ways are they similar? Different?
2/Process,or Sequence	Present ideas or events in the order in which they happen	First, second, third..., later, next, before, then, finally, after/later, when, since, now/previously, actual use of dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What items, events, or steps are listed? • Do they have to/always happen in this order? • What sequence of events is being described? • What are the major incidents that occur?
3/Description	Describes a topic by listing characteristics, features, attributes, and examples	For example, characteristics, for instance, such as, including, to illustrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most important characteristics? • How is it being

			described (what does it look like, how does it work, etc.)?
4/Problem/ Solution	Identify problems and pose solutions	problem is, dilemma is, if/then, because, so that, question/answer, puzzle is solved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the problem? • Why is this a problem? • Is anything being done to try to solve the problem? • What can be done to solve the problem?
5/Cause and Effect	Provide explanations or reasons for phenomena	if/then, reasons why, as a result, therefore, because, consequently, since, so that, for, due to ...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happened? • Why did it happen? • What caused it to happen?

Note!! : Here are some tips to identify which text structure is used in a text :

- Ask "what is the author doing in this paragraph?".
- Look for the signal words.

Activity:

- Which text structure is the following text probably written in?

The Consequences of Feeding Bears

- Which text structure is the following text probably written in?

Moon and Stars: What's the Difference?

- Which text structure is the following text probably written in?

Save Our Oceans: How You Can Help!

- Which text structure is the following text probably written in?

A Step-by-Step Guide to Engine Repair

- Which text structure is the following text probably written in?

Jupiter: All About the Largest Planet

Activity: identify the text structure of the following short texts

TEXT1/

In 1835, James Bowman invented the light bulb, which uses electricity to make light. This invention caused huge changes across the world. In a basic sense, this new and easy way of creating light meant that it was now much easier to perform tasks after dark. As a result of the light bulb, businesses could stay open later. Homes and streets were now better lit for nighttime activity. It also made things safer, as the gaslights that were used before light bulbs could be very dangerous.

TEXT2/

Biking and running are two of the best kinds of exercise. Both are full of health benefits, including keeping your heart healthy and lowering stress. In addition, both are convenient. Often, you can just step out your front door and get going all by yourself. Biking does require a bike, of course, which can get expensive, while running just requires sturdy shoes. Biking, on the other hand, is easier on your body since your joints aren't pounding into the ground with each step.

TEXT3/

A butterfly's life cycle comes in four stages. First, a butterfly lays its eggs, which take only about five days to hatch. In stage two, a caterpillar emerges from the egg and starts eating everything in sight. When the caterpillar is done growing, it enters stage three and begins making a protective shell called a chrysalis. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar turns into a butterfly. In stage four, the chrysalis opens to reveal a beautiful butterfly. Eventually, it lays eggs, and the cycle begins again.

