

Informational Text Structures

Description



Signal Words:
such as, for instance, in addition, also, specifically

Tips:
Ask yourself: what specific person, place, thing, or idea is being described?

Look for a topic word or phrase and for synonyms.

Problem and Solution



Signal Words:
problem, issue, since, as a result, solution, idea, so, leads to, causes

Tips:
Ask yourself: what is the problem and what is the solution?

Look for the problem first and then the solution.

Compare and Contrast



Signal Words:
similar, same, alike, both, as well as, unlike, as opposed to, on the other hand, in contrast, instead

Tips:
Ask yourself: what is being compared?

How are they the same? How are they different?

Cause and Effect



Signal Words:
since, because, if, due to, as a result of, causes, leads to, consequently, then, therefore

Tips:
Ask yourself: what happened and why did it happen?

Remember, you are looking for a cause, not a solution.

Sequence



Signal Words:
first, second, third, then, next, before, after, finally, following

Tips:
Ask yourself: Is this event taking place over time?

Look for steps or references to time such as dates.