Sequence and Chronological Order

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

sequence order: the order in which events should, may, or usually occur; sequence order is used to give directions or to show steps or events in a process.

chronological order: organization in order of occurrence, forward in time, usually used to tell stories, to report events, or to record histories.

HERE'S HOW

Step 1: Look for times, dates, or number words that show order. Sometimes clue words such as *first, second,* and so on, indicate the sequence of information. In other cases, numerals (*1, 2, 3, . . .*) or dates and times may give the order of events.

Step 2: Organize information in a graphic. Based on any time-order clue words, place the events in a graphic organizer. The organizer can be as simple as a numbered list. Or you can create a left-to-right series of boxes and arrows to track the information.

Step 3: Look for words and phrases that show duration or sequence. Certain signal words and phrases help structure both chronological and sequential texts: *then, next, as soon as, before, after, at the same time, during, after* and *finally,* and so on.

Step 4: Infer the author's purpose. The author may want to explain how to carry out a task, explain a natural process step by step, or report, retell, or create a story about how events unfolded in time. Ask yourself: Why does the author arrange details in this way? What is he or she trying to achieve?

How a Boy Became a Knight

Between 1100 and 1300 in England, the goal of many boys was to become a knight. The first step began at age seven when a boy went to live with a knight or nobleman and work for him as a page. Next, when he had reached age 15 or 16, the page became a squire. At that time he served the knight in battle. The last stage occurred at age 21, when the squire took vows to uphold the code of knighthood.

Words and phrases such as *The first step, Next,* signal sequence order. The process is outlined step by step.
The author's purpose is to tell how a boy became a knight in England during the Middle Ages.

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