## Text Structure

Definition

Every literary genre or form has a structure that defines it. In fiction the focus might be on story elements and problem solution; however, in nonfiction expository text structures such as compare/contrast or cause and effect might be employed. An awareness of the manner in which a text is organized help the reader better understand the author’s message. If a text is organized sequentially, the reader anticipates what will happen next; if the text compares or contrasts certain aspects of a particular topic, the reader anticipates patterns or relationships that are similar or the opposite.

Common Text Structures

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| 1. Story Map | A graphic organizer that delineates: plot, setting, characters, conflict, resolution, mood, etc. |
| 1. Cause and Effect | A cause effect relationship is determined in the text. |
| 1. Compare/Contrast | Usually a venn diagram is used to compare and contrast the various similarities and differences in text. |
| 1. Sequencing or Chronological order | Students recall the important events and place them in the order in which they occurred in the story. |
| 1. Deduction | The author begins with a general idea and uses that idea to support a specific conclusion. |
| 1. Induction | The author begins with specific ideas that lead to a general idea. |
| 1. Categorization | The author puts like ideas into groups or categories |
| 1. Spatial order | The author organizes his/her writing based on the physical location of things referred to in the writing. |
| 1. Order of importance | Facts in a piece of writing are written in order from most important to least or the order could be reversed. |

# Reference

Harvey, S. & Gould, A.(2002). *Strategies that Work*, *Teaching Comprehension to Enhance Understanding.* Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishers. *P.*.76

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