

Informative/Explanatory Text

Informational text is written to tell, show, describe, or explain.

Five text patterns that seem to dominate informational text include:

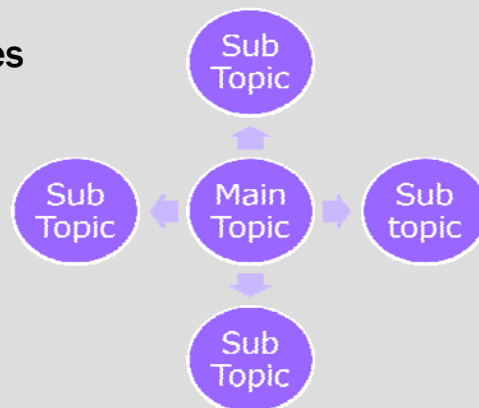
- Description
- Problem/Solution
- Compare/Contrast
- Cause/Effect
- Sequencing

Description

Focuses on listing facts, characteristics, features or a combination of those.

Signal Words:

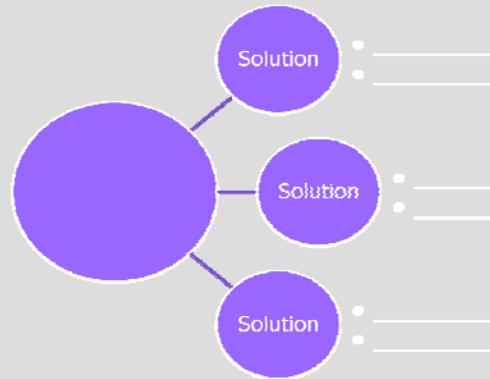
To begin with, first, second, third, next, finally, several, numerous, for example, for instance, in fact, most important, also, in addition



Problem/Solution

Explain how a difficult situation, puzzle, or conflict developed, then describe what was done to solve it.

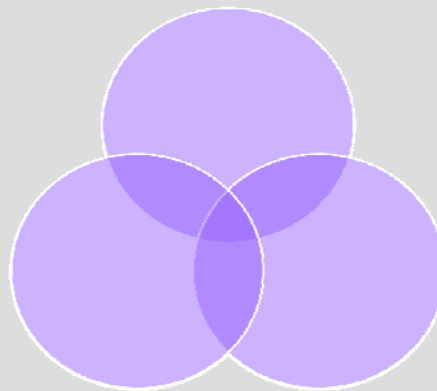
Signal Words: (same as Cause/Effect)
accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, nevertheless, so that, therefore, this led to, thus



Compare/Contrast

Explain similarities and differences.

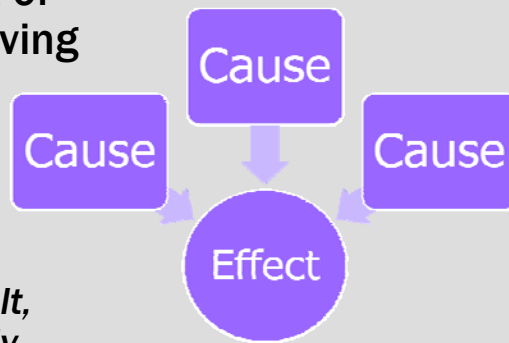
Signal Words:
although, as well as, but, conversely, either, however, not only, on the one hand, on the other hand, or, rather than, similarly, unless unlike



Cause/Effect

Show how something can happen as a result of something else having happened.

Signal Words: (same a problem/solution)
accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, nevertheless, so that, therefore, this led to, thus



Chronological/ Sequence

Structures that put facts, events and concepts into sequence using time references.

Signal Words:
after, before, gradually, not long after, now, on (date), since, when, while

