Text Structures

Structure	Definition	Signal Words	Graphic Organizers	Summary Questions	Paragraph Frames
Description	The author explains a topic, idea, person, place, or thing by listing characteristics, features, and examples. Focus is on one thing and its components.	For example Characteristics are Such as Looks like Consists of For instance Most important *Look for topic word (or synonym) to be repeated throughout the text.	Concept Map	What specific person, place, thing, event, or concept is being described? How is the topic described? (How does it work? What does it do? What does it look like? Etc.) What are the most important attributes or characteristics? How can the topic be classified? (For example, a robin can be classified as a type of bird.)	A is a type of It is made up of and looks like have For example, has several characteristics. One characteristic is Another is, which is important because
Sequence	The author lists items or events in numerical or chronological order. Describes the order of events or how to do or make something.	First, second, third Next Then, after Before, prior to Not long after While, meanwhile Simultaneously At the same time Following Finally At last In the end On (date) At (time) Directions	Timeline 1 2 3 4 5 Steps/Directions Step 1 Step 2 Step 3 Cycle/Circle	What sequence of events is being described? What are the major events or incidents that occur? What are the steps, directions, or procedures to follow? (What must be done first, second, etc.?) What is the beginning event? What other events or steps are included? What is the final outcome, event, or step?	Here is how a is made. First, Next, Then, Finally, On (date) happened. Prior to that Then After that In the end,
Compare and Contrast	The author explains how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different.	Differs from Similar to In contrast Alike Same as As well as On the other hand Both Either, or Not only, but also Yet, although, but, However On the other hand * Also look for est" words: best, fewest, tallest, etc.	T-Chart Alike Different	What items are being compared? What is it about them that is being compared? What characteristics of items form the basis of the comparison? What characteristics do they have in common; how are these items alike? In what way are these items different?	and are alike in several ways. Both and have similar Both also as well as On the other hand, one way they differ is Another difference is Although they share , only is the est.

^{*}All five text structures are tested on Kansas Reading Assessment

Structure	Description	Signal Words	Graphic Organizers	Summary Questions	Paragraph Frames
Cause and Effect	The author lists one or more causes or events and the resulting consequences or effects. Effect = What happened? Cause = What made it happen? Purpose is to explain why or how something happened, exists, or works. *Often there will be an "if/then" pattern	Reasons why Reasons for Ifthen As a result of Therefore Because of So Since In order to Leads or leads to Effects of Caused by Result Outcome Impact Influenced by Brought about by	Effect #1 Cause Effect #2 Effect #3 Cause #1 Cause #2 Effect Cause #3	What happened? Why did it happen? What was the reason for? What was the effect(s) of the event? What happened as a result of? What were the results or outcomes caused by the event? In what ways did prior event(s) cause or influence the main event? Will this result always happen from these causes?	The reason why happened was because of If hadn't happened, then Due to occurring, This explains why The cause of is not easy to define. Some people think the cause is Others believe the main cause is Understanding the cause of is important because The effects of are significant because One effect of is Another result is Because of these outcomes, it important that
Problem and Solution	The author states a problem and lists one or more possible solutions to the problem. May also include the pros and cons for the solutions.	Problem is Dilemma is Puzzle is Solved Question Answer Because Since This led to The main difficulty One possible solution is One challenge Therefore, This led to, so that Ifthen, thus	Problem Solutions Problem Solution Problem	What is the problem(s)? Who had the problem? What is causing the problem? Why is this a problem? What is wrong and how can it be taken care of? What solutions are recommended or attempted? What can be improved, changed, fixed, or remedied? What are the pros and cons of the solutions offered?	had/is a problem because One possible solution is This answer is good because Therefore, As a result, The problem of really boils down to the issue of In the past, the common solution was to However, this was only effective in terms of There are now other solutions that might work. One option would be to