

INFORMATIONAL TEXT STRUCTURES

An informational text structure is the way that the author has organized the main body of the text. There are five main text structures that authors use. They are description, compare/contrast, problem/solution, cause/effect, and order/sequence.

DESCRIPTION

To tell about something.

“An octopus has 8 legs.”

SIGNAL WORDS

characteristics are, is like, one example, also, another, to begin with, on top of, in addition, to illustrate...



COMPARE AND CONTRAST

To show how two or more things are alike and different.

“Both octopus and jellyfish have tentacles.”

SIGNAL WORDS

like, unlike, also, similar, different, too, as well as, both, however, although, same as...



PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

To tell about a problem and show a solution.

“Octopus face threats from humans that include habitat destruction. Many advocates are working to prevent this from happening.”

SIGNAL WORDS

concern, solve, challenge, help, prevent, so that, the answer, one reason is...

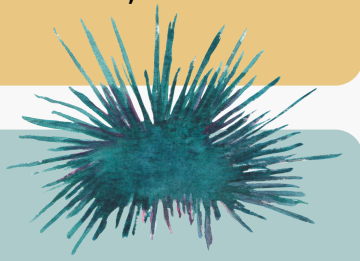
CAUSE AND EFFECT

To show *why* something happened and *what* happened.

“If an octopus loses a tentacle, it will slowly grow a new one over time.”

SIGNAL WORDS

so that, due to, this led to, as a result, since, so, for this reason, in order to...



ORDER AND SEQUENCE

To show events or procedures in time order.

“The life cycle of an octopus has four stages. The first stage is the egg.”

SIGNAL WORDS

first, second, third, next, later, then before, followed by, finally...

