

Text Structures

Overview lesson purposes:

1. identify prior knowledge
2. provide some exposure to the terms before direct instruction with each one
3. reinforce that writers use patterns when they write to help readers understand what they are saying. So, as a reader, look for the patterns in order to understand what is being said. Signal words are great clues for identifying patterns.

Identifying Patterns of Organization

Text is organized in patterns. Authors use signal words that clue you into what type of pattern is being used in a particular part of the text.

You might ask yourself, “What is the author trying to do here? Describe, tell a sequence of events or steps, explain a cause and effect, compare/ contrast, provide an explanation of a problem with a solution, etc.”

Use the definition sheet to help you as you scan through the articles to see what patterns you can find.

Circle any signal words you see that help you figure out the type of pattern and then label the pattern in the margin.

You can add the signal words you find for each pattern to your patterns of organization chart.

Then, venture out into classroom text books, magazines, articles, etc. and see what you can find. Mark up your text by circling signal words and labeling the pattern in the margin.

Remember, identifying the patterns helps you to determine the important information that you will need to know from the reading.

Next Steps (Future lessons)

Next steps....learning how to create graphic organizers to help you take notes using your marked up text. These organizers will help you remember the information and be prepared to answer questions on tests.