TEXT STRUCTURES: WHAT ARE THEY– AND WHY DO I CARE?

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Text Structures

◦ Description – when descriptive details are used to describe a specific person, place, thing, idea.

◦ Problem/Solution – to explain/highlight a problem, and give one or more solutions.

◦ Sequence – organize steps or events that take place over time.

◦ Compare/contrast – text is organized where you look at two or more items/ideas to establish similarities and/or differences.

◦ Cause & effect – causal relationship between a specific event, idea or concept; gives details regarding what triggers certain events/things to happen.

Signal/Key Words for Different Text Structures

Description
Such as, for instance, specifically, also, included;

Adjectives & sensory words

Problem/Solution
since, consequently, nevertheless, however, in addition,

Sequence
first, earlier, then, next, before, after that, finally

Compare/Contrast
But, on the other hand, similar to, instead of, different from, compared to

Cause & Effect
Consequently, since, therefore, so that, thus; not only, but

https://www.adlit.org/in-the-classroom/strategies/text-structure
https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/comprehension/articles/reading-and-scaffolding-expository-texts

Teaching Text Structures to Improve Reading Comprehension & Writing

◦ Used with undergraduate pre-service teacher candidates in RDG 3332 – Reading in the Content Areas. These students are seeking difference degrees for teacher certification: EC-6, 4th-8th, EC-6 w/SPED-12th.

◦ After reading a variety of trade books for several content areas (social studies, science, math) – I give an overview of text structures using the Powtoon videos. Student arethen given a "Text Structures" assignment – (instructions are attached) – they select one of the trade books they've read to complete the assignment.

◦ Part of the assignment asks them to reflect on their learning.

◦ In general – the majority respond on what they learned, how it aided their comprehension, and they would like to use in their future classrooms. (Student samples are included/attached.)

Websites w/Strategies for Teaching

1. AdLit.org – All About Adolescent Literacy
   - https://www.adlit.org/in-the-classroom/strategies/text-structure

2. Powtoons – Part 1 & 2
   - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmmOOxA-ig8
   - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsElFo4f9pM

3. Reading Rockets
   - https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/comprehension/articles/reading-and-scaffolding-expository-texts

4. The Five Types of Text Structures (with some rap music & visuals)
   - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kWGQ-_ipBY

Professional Articles/Book Chapters

◦ Bogaerds-Hazenberg, S., Evers-Bermeul, J., & van den Bergh, H. (2020). A meta-analysis on the effects of text structure instruction on reading comprehension in the upper elementary grades. *Reading Research Quarterly, 56(3),* 435-462.

◦ Dickson, S. V., Simmons, D. C., & Kameenui, E. J. (1995). Text organization and its relation to reading comprehension: A synthesis of research. National Center to Improve the Tools of Educators. Retrieved March 26, 2008, from https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED386864

◦ Dymock, S. (2005). Teaching expository text structure awareness. *The Reading Teacher, 59(2),* 177-181.

◦ Simonsen, S. (1996). Identifying and teaching text structures in content area classrooms. In D. Lapp, J. Flood, & N. Farnan (Eds.), *Content Area Reading and Learning: Instructional Strategies (2nd ed.).* Allyn and Bacon.