

Cause and Effect

When an author explains why something happened (cause) and what happened (effect).

SIGNAL QUESTIONS

- What happened?
- Why did it happen?
- What caused it to happen?

SIGNAL WORDS

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| • Because | • Therefore |
| • Since | • May be due to |
| • So | • If ... Then |
| • As a result | • Consequently |

Compare and Contrast

When an author writes about the ways two or more people, places, or things are alike and different.

SIGNAL QUESTIONS

- What things are being compared?
- How are they alike?
- In what ways are they different?

SIGNAL WORDS

- Similar to
- Different from
- Alike
- Both
- More than / Less than
- As opposed to
- On the other hand

Description

When an author tells about a person, place, thing, or event by listing what it looks like, how it works, or what it does.

SIGNAL QUESTIONS

- What is being described?
- How is it being described?
- What does it look like?
- How does it work?

SIGNAL WORDS

- It looks like
- It smells like
- It tastes like
- It sounds like
- Some examples are
- For instance

Problem and Solution

When an author tells about a problem and explains how the problem can be solved.

SIGNAL QUESTIONS

- What is the problem?
- What is the solution?
- What can be done to solve the problem?
- Can the problem be solved another way?

SIGNAL WORDS

- As a result
- Because of
- To solve this
- One reason is
- This lead to
- The dilemma is
- Consequently

Sequence

When an author provides information in chronological order (first, next, then, last / morning, afternoon, night).

SIGNAL QUESTIONS

- What happened first?
- What happened last?
- What steps are listed?
- Do the steps have to happen in this order?

SIGNAL WORDS

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| • First | • After |
| • Second | • Soon |
| • Next | • Now |
| • Then | • Last |
| • Before | • In the end |