

Dissecting Text Structures:

Olympic Games

Chronological

The Olympic Games **first** began as athletic festivals to honor the Greek gods. **At that time**, the most important festival was held in the valley of Olympia to honor Zeus, the king of the gods. It was the festival that became the Olympic games in 776 B.C. **Later**, these Games were ended in A.D. 394 by the Roman Emperor who ruled Greece. No Olympic Games were held for more than 1,500 years. **Then** the modern Olympics began in 1896. Almost 300 male athletes competed in the **first** modern Olympics. **During** the games held in 1900, female athletes were allowed to compete. The games have continued every four years since 1896 except during World War II, and they will most likely continue for many years to come.

Enumerative

The Olympic Games are a 2-week celebration featuring thousands of gited athletes from around the world competing in 28 different disciplines. **One of** the more popular disciplines during the summer games centers on pool sports. The aquatic events, **like** diving, swimming, synchronized swimming, water polo, etc., are a favorite of many. Gymnastics is **another type** of discipline. It **consists of** trampoline events, artistic gymnastics, **as well as** rhythmic gymnastics. **Additional disciplines include** track and field, figure skating, and winter outdoor sports.

Compare/Contrast

The modern Olympics is very **unlike** the ancient Olympic Games. Individual events are **different**. **While** there were no swimming races in the ancient games, **for example**, there were chariot races. There were no female contestants, and all athletes competed in the nude. **Of course**, the ancient and modern Olympics are **also alike** in many ways. Some events, **such as** the javelin and discus throws, are the **same**. Some people say that cheating, professionalism, and nationalism in the modern games are a disgrace to the Olympic tradition. **But** according to the ancient Greek writers, there were many cases of cheating, nationalism, and professionalism in their Olympics, **too**.

Cause/Effect

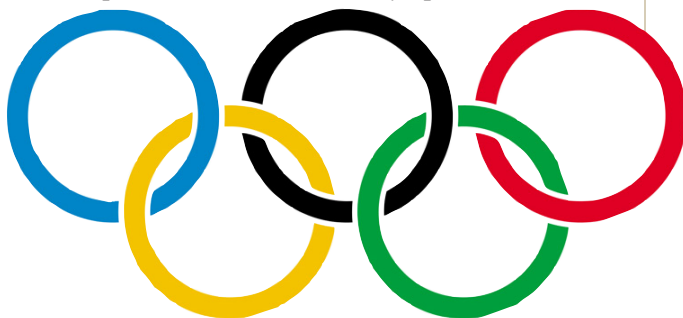
Millions of people attend the Olympic Games or watch them on television. **Because of** the Olympics, people can escape the ordinariness of daily life. They identify with someone else's individual sacrifice and accomplishment. **Consequently**, the Olympics impact national pride as an athlete's or a team's hard-earned victory becomes a nation's victory. **For this reason**, there are national medal counts and people keep track of how many medals their country's athletes have won.

Problem/Solution

One problem with the modern Olympics is that it has become expensive to operate. **Consequently**, the city or country that hosts the games often loses money. A stadium, pools, and playing fields must be built for the athletic events, and housing is needed for the international athletes. And all of these facilities are used for only 2 weeks! **One solution** is not to build new facilities, but to repurpose spaces. That's what Los Angeles officials did for the 1984 games; they used area colleges and universities as the athletes' living areas. **They also solved** the economic drain by charging a fee for companies who wanted to be official sponsors of the games. Companies like McDonald's paid a lot of money to be part of the Olympics. **By so doing**, Los Angeles actually made a profit rather than losing money as hosts of the Olympics.

Proposition/Support

To host the Olympics costs a city more money than the tourism will generate, making it an unwise investment. **One example**, according to CNN, was the 2004 Games. Athens, Greece built thousands of hotel rooms, hoping that the Games would encourage tourism beyond the Olympics. They are still waiting for that to happen. **The biggest** loss dates back to the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal. The \$1.5 billion debt took over 30 years to pay. (Canadians sarcastically changed the name of the unused Olympic Stadium from *The Big O*, to *The Big O-W-E*.) In fact, the only profitable Olympics was hosted in Los Angeles in 1984 where they made over \$100 million through corporate sponsorship. **Nevertheless**, hosting the Games does not provide the promised windfalls to the cities who foot the bill.



Dissecting Text Structures:

Traffic during rush hour



Chronological Structure

The easiest way to get to work during rush hour is to follow these simple steps.

First, remember to grab some good music and a spill-proof mug full of coffee for the trip.

While traveling from your home to the interstate, check the local radio station for traffic updates. **Subsequently** decide which route to take.

During the commute, breathe deeply and quiet your mind. **Little by little** you will creep closer to your destination, and **in the end**, you will arrive to work in a more rested state.

Enumerative Structure

When traffic is jammed and no one is moving, it's easy to get a close-up view of several **different types of** vehicles. For instance, you'll see eco-friendly cars are on the roads.

Characteristics of an eco-friendly car include hybrids and electrics. The electric cars sometimes don't **sound like** a vehicle at all. They simply hum down the road. The hybrids **sound like** a regular car but **look like** a smaller version of one.

In addition to the eco-friendly cars, there are multiple mini-vans. Mini-vans **consist of** a more roomy ride for multiple passengers **as well as** a higher vantage point for the driver.

Luxury cars make up a minority of the vehicles on the road. Their shiny outward **look** matches the custom accents that mark the interior.

Compare/Contrast Structure

Getting to work in the morning is the choice between two paths. **The first option** is the highway. It offers high-speed convenience and a direct route.

On the other hand, some prefer the circuitous route through the back roads. **It differs** from the interstate in that it is not very direct, **but** it does offer a quieter, more scenic view.

Regardless of which route you take, **both** bring you to the same destination.

Cause/Effect Structure

When traffic backs up, it **impacts** more than just the wait time of drivers and passengers.

Delays **due to** excessive traffic **cause** people to be late to work or school.

Since cars idle in the midst of a traffic jam, **then** fuel is wasted.

Also affected is the stress level of the motorists. All that frustration **results in** impatience and anger, **which, in turn, can cause** accidents.

Problem/Solution Structure

Traffic jams are prevalent in most urban areas, **consequently** drivers often experience long wait times. Traffic management systems provide several different **options to combat** this **problem**.

Since traffic reporters provide constant traffic information through the radio, **then** drivers can adjust their commute.

In order to warn drivers of upcoming traffic tie-ups, digital message signs provide drivers with approximate drive times.

But the biggest change that can **lead to improved situations** is regular tracking of traffic counters to determine road usage. **If** the data shows the usage is high, **then** it likely indicates the need for wider roads in the future.

Proposition/Support Structure

Traffic issues exist because of the increased number of motor vehicles in use for daily commutes. **As a result**, metropolitan areas must consider options to dissuade drivers from using their own transportation.

To this end, one way to encourage drivers to leave their cars at home would be to raise the cost of parking near office buildings and companies. Although some people can't afford those higher rates, **it should be noted** that they will consider other options for transportation.

Furthermore, cities should offer affordable park and ride facilities, allowing drivers to car pool from a distance or consider mass transit.