

**“Understanding the expository text structures gives readers a better shot at determining important information when reading nonfiction... If students know what to look for in terms of text structure, they grasp the meaning more easily!”**

Stephanie Harvey, *Nonfiction Matters*

## 7 Types of expository text structures.

1

### **SEQUENCE:**

*This text structure gives readers a chronology of events or a list of steps in a procedure.*

*Items are listed, but there is a connecting thread—the steps/actions build toward a result/ending/outcome.*

2

### **DESCRIPTIVE:**

*This type of text structure features a detailed description of something to give the reader a mental picture.*

*The specific details could come in the form of a bulleted or numbered list, or a list of items in paragraph form.*

3

### **MAIN IDEA-DETAIL:**

*This kind of text makes a statement, and then uses details to support it.*

*It always has a main idea, with additional sentences that either clarify the main idea by giving examples or illustrations or extend the main idea by explaining it in more detail.*

4

### **COMPARE-CONTRAST:**

*This type of text examines the similarities and differences between two or more people, events, concepts, ideas, etc.*

*It requires the reader to organize the material in such a way as to make the connections between/among the items clear and explicit.*

5

### **CAUSE-EFFECT:**

*This structure presents the causal relationship between a specific event, idea, or concept and the events, ideas, or concepts that follow.*

*Typically the cause(s) comes before the effect(s). However, it's possible for the effect(s) to be outlined in the text and then connected to the cause(s).*

6

### **PROBLEM-SOLUTION:**

*This type of structure sets up a problem or problems, explains the solution, and then discusses the effects of the solution.*

7

### **PROPOSITION-SUPPORT:**

*Similar to Problem-Solution organization, this text structure includes both arguments and counter-arguments.*

*This text uses sound reasoning and reliable external evidence, stating facts, giving logical reasons, using examples, and quoting reliable experts and original sources.*