

Organizational Patterns Found in Informational Texts

Organizational Pattern	Questions That Promote Understanding	Signal Words That Guide the Reader
<p><i>Chronological</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents events in time sequence 	<p>What sequence of events is being described?</p> <p>What are the major incidents that occur?</p> <p>How is this pattern revealed in the text?</p>	<p>after, afterwards, as soon as, before, during, finally, first, following, immediately, initially, later, meanwhile, next, not long after, now, on, preceding, second, soon, then, third, today, until, when</p>
<p><i>Comparison and contrast</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents information about similarities and differences 	<p>What items are being compared?</p> <p>What characteristics are being compared?</p> <p>What characteristics do the items have in common?</p> <p>In what ways are these items different?</p> <p>What conclusion does the author reach about the degree of difference and similarity between the items?</p> <p>How did the author reveal this pattern?</p>	<p>although, as opposed to, as well as, both, but, compared with, different from, either ... or, even though, however, in common, instead of, on the other hand, otherwise, similar to, similarly, still, yet</p>
<p><i>Concept/definition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents <i>general</i> information about a class of persons, places, things, and events • identifies characteristics or attributes 	<p>What concept is being defined?</p> <p>What are its attributes or characteristics?</p> <p>How does it work or what does it do?</p> <p>What examples are given for each of the attributes or characteristics?</p> <p>How is this pattern revealed in the text?</p>	<p>for instance, in other words, is characterized by, put another way, refers to, that is, thus, usually</p>

(continued)

Organizational Patterns Found in Informational Texts – Continued

Organizational Pattern	Questions That Promote Understanding	Signal Words That Guide the Reader
<p>Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describes characteristics of specific persons, places, things, events 	<p>What is being described?</p> <p>What are its most important attributes or characteristics?</p> <p>Would the description change if the order of the attributes were changed?</p> <p>Why is the description important?</p>	<p>above, across, along, appears to be, as in, behind, below, beside, between, down, in back of, in front of, looks like, near, on top of, onto, outside, over, such as, to the right/left, under</p>
<p>Episode</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organizes a large body of information about specific events identifies time, place, specific people, specific duration, specific sequence of incidents, and causes and effects 	<p>What event is being explained or described?</p> <p>What is the setting where the event occurs?</p> <p>Who are the major figures or characters that play a part in the event?</p> <p>What are the specific incidents or events that occur? In what order do they happen?</p> <p>What caused this event?</p> <p>What effects has this event had on the people involved?</p> <p>What effects has this event had on society in general?</p>	<p>a few days/months later, around this time, as a result of, as it is often called, because of, began when, consequently, first, for this reason, lasted for, led to, shortly thereafter, since then, subsequently, this led to, when</p>
<p>Generalization/principle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organizes information into general statements with supporting examples 	<p>What generalization is the author making or what principle is being explained?</p> <p>What facts, examples, statistics, and expert opinions are given that support the generalization or explain the principle?</p> <p>Do these details appear in a logical order?</p> <p>Are enough facts, examples, statistics, and expert opinions included to support or explain the generalization/principle?</p>	<p>additionally, always, because of, clearly, conclusively, first, for example, for instance, furthermore, generally, however, if ... then, in fact, it could be argued that, moreover, most convincing, never, not only ... but also, often, second, therefore, third, truly, typically</p>
<p>Process/cause and effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organizes information into a series of steps leading to a specific product or outcome 	<p>What process or subject is being explained?</p> <p>What are the specific steps in the process, or what specific causal events occur?</p> <p>What is the product or end result of the process, or what is the outcome of the causal events?</p>	<p>accordingly, as a result of, because, begins with, consequently, effect of, finally, first, for this reason, how, if ... then, in order to, is caused by, leads/led to, may be due to, next,</p>