## Five Expository Text Structures and their Associated Signal Words

Pattern	Description	Cue Words (signal words)	Graphic Organizer
Description	The author describes a topic by listing characteristics, features, attributes, and examples	<ul> <li>for example</li> <li>characteristics</li> <li>for instance</li> <li>such as</li> <li>is like</li> <li>including</li> <li>to illustrate</li> </ul>	
Sequence	The author lists items or events in numerical or chronological sequence, either explicit or implied	<ul> <li>first</li> <li>second</li> <li>third</li> <li>later</li> <li>next</li> <li>before</li> <li>then</li> <li>finally</li> <li>after</li> <li>when</li> <li>later</li> <li>since</li> <li>now</li> <li>previously</li> <li>actual use of dates</li> </ul>	1
Comparison	Information is presented by detailing how two or more events, concepts, theories, or things are alike and/or different	<ul> <li>however</li> <li>nevertheless</li> <li>on the other hand</li> <li>but</li> <li>similarly</li> <li>although</li> <li>also</li> <li>in contrast</li> <li>different</li> <li>alike</li> <li>same as</li> <li>either/or</li> <li>in the same way</li> <li>just like</li> <li>just as</li> <li>likewise</li> <li>in comparison</li> <li>where as</li> <li>yet</li> </ul>	Alike Different

Cause and Effect	The author presents ideas, events in time, or facts as causes and the resulting effect(s) or facts that happen as a result of an event.	<ul> <li>if/then</li> <li>reasons why</li> <li>as a result</li> <li>therefore</li> <li>because</li> <li>consequently</li> <li>since</li> <li>so that</li> <li>for</li> <li>hence</li> <li>due to</li> <li>thus</li> <li>this led to</li> </ul>	Cause Effect #2  Effect #3
Problem and Solution	The author presents a problem and one or more solutions to the problem	<ul> <li>problem is</li> <li>dilemma is</li> <li>if/then</li> <li>because</li> <li>so that</li> <li>question/answer</li> <li>puzzle is solved</li> </ul>	Problem  Solution