## Five Expository Text Structures and their Associated Signal Words

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

Alike |
---|
Different |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause and Effect</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• if/then • reasons why • as a result • therefore • because • consequently • since • so that • for • hence • due to • thus • this led to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem and Solution</td>
<td>The author presents a problem and one or more solutions to the problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• problem is • dilemma is • if/then • because • so that • question/answer • puzzle is solved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Diagram of Cause and Effect and Problem Solution](image-url)