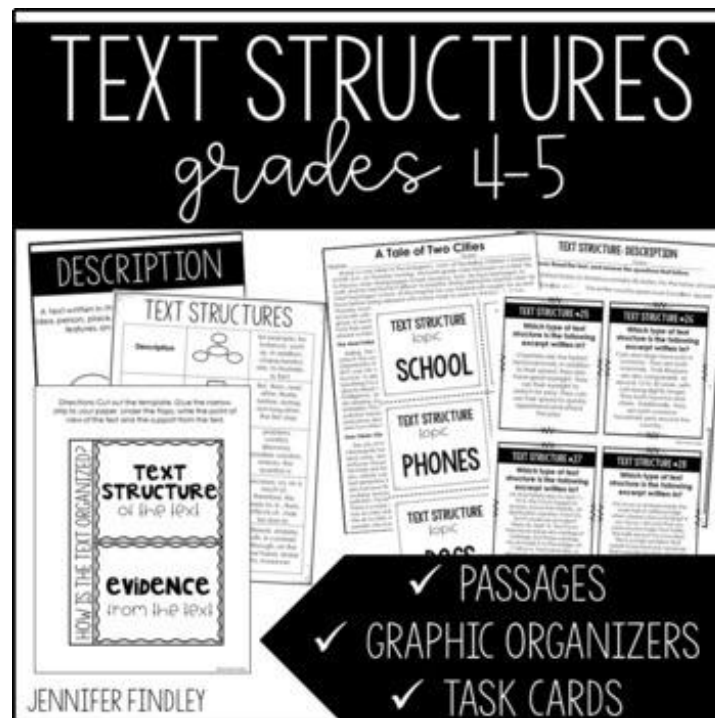


TEACHING TEXT STRUCTURE

Prerequisite Skills	<p>To teach text structure, make sure that you have taught or the students have a working knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That texts and authors have specific purposes• That a text or section of text has a main idea that the author wants the reader to understand• That topics or events can be related in different ways (cause and effect, compare and contrast relationships, etc.). Students should have a working knowledge of how to identify these relationships at the sentence level.
Text Structure Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the relationships between details (Are they describing the topic? Are they comparing and contrasting the topics?)• Understand the key words used to show common relationships between details• Understand text structures and their purposes (to convey information in an organized way that helps present the main idea)• Identify the text structure used in a paragraph• Prove the text structure by connecting it back to the main idea and details presented in the text• Prove the text structure by identifying key words or clue words used• Identify the overall text structure used by a text with multiple paragraphs• Use the text structure of a text to help summarize the text• Identify if a text includes multiple types of text structures and understand why• Summarize key details presented in a text using a graphic organizer specific to the text structure• Understand that texts on the same overall topic can be written using different text structures• Compare and contrast text structures used by multiple texts on the same topic and understand why the text structures differ• Explain why a particular text structure was used in a text (particularly when analyzing texts on the same topic with differing text structures)
If Students Struggle...	<p>If students struggle with text structure, reteach these skills or check these for understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take it back to a sentence level. Can the students identify a cause and effect relationship in one sentence? Repeat this for the other text structures. If students struggle at the sentence level, provide the necessary instruction.• Provide additional instruction with key words/clue words with sorting and identification activities (identifying them in texts).• A lot of students confuse text structures with description because all text structures are basically describing. However, they are describing in specific ways. For example, cats and dogs can be described by comparing and contrasting. I specifically discuss this with my students to help with confusion. I use this language, "Is the text describing the topic using a specific relationship (compare and contrast, cause and effect, etc.)?"• Highlight, point out, or underline the sentences that clearly show relationships in a text. Focus on those sentences, and ask the students what the details are showing you or how the details are related.• Connect the details with how they would be organized in a visual graphic organizer. If students can visualize the best way to organize details in a text, they will be able to identify the text structure with greater success. This can be modeled through direct instruction by completing graphic organizers together or by matching them to specific texts.• The connection between reading and writing is very strong with text structures. One way I help my students understand text structure is by connecting it to their writing by having them write using specific text structures.

NEED RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHING TEXT STRUCTURE?

This is my top recommended resource for everything you need to teach text structure! It includes posters, graphic organizers, texts (short texts, long texts, and paired texts), and small-group activities, including task cards! [Click here or on the image to check it out!](#)



This resource was created by Jennifer Findley. It may be printed and photocopied for single classroom use. It may not be put on the Internet, sold, or distributed in any form. Check out my store for more resources for grades 3-5.



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Credits:

