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	 for example characteristics for instance such as is like including to illustrate 	
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
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 	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.	 if/then reasons why as a result therefore because consequently since so that for hence due to thus this led to 	Cause Effect #2 Effect #3
Problem and Solution	The author presents a problem and one or more solutions to the problem	 problem is dilemma is if/then because so that question/answer puzzle is solved 	Problem Solution