

Informational Text
Teaching Students to Work Effectively With Informational Text
Background for the Science Teacher

Teacher Note: Challenge students to determine the purpose of the informational text they are reading. Informational text is written with a variety of structures. Author's intent can easily be clarified by identifying core vocabulary words that make the author's intent transparent. Is the author's intent to explicate cause/effect, comparison/contrast, problem/solution/ question/answer, or sequence?

Our challenge, as science teachers, is to support students in recognizing patterns in informational text and to further challenge our students to apply those patterns in their own writing. The core vocabulary words associated with structures of informational text writing will be helpful in scaffolding our teaching process.

TEXT CUES

Cause/Effect	Comparison/Contrast	Problem/Solution	Question/Answer	Sequence
Since	In like manner	One reason for	How	Until
Because	Likewise	that.....	When	Before
Accordingly	Similarly	A solution	What	Initially
As a result of	The difference	A problem	Where	After
This lead to	between		Why	Afterward
On account of.....	As opposed to		Who	As soon as
Due to	Although		How many	During
May be due to.....	As well as		The best estimate	Next
For this reason.....	After all		It could be that	Finally
Consequently	However		One may	Lastly
Is caused by.....	And yet		conclude.....	First/last
Leads/lead to	But			Then
If/then	Nevertheless			On (date)
Then, so	Instead of			At (time)
Therefore				Following
Thus				Later
When.....then				Meanwhile
In common				Steps involved
On the other hand				When...then...
Similar to				

Lists from *Strategies That Work* (Harvey & Goudvis, 2000)