

# Recognize the 5 Nonfiction Text Structures

**READING VOICE**

*Look at the type of information stated within the introduction, body, and conclusion.*

**THINKING VOICE**

*Think about the 5 ways authors can organize nonfiction.*

**INFERENCE**

*Based on the text structure, infer the author's purpose.*

**INTRO** | Names the event/process.

**BODY PARAGRAPHS** | Reveal info in order of occurrence.

- **EACH TOPIC SENTENCE** | Introduces a step.
- **SUPPORT** | Describes what happened in that step, time, or phase.

**CONCLUSION** | Highlights the impact or describes the result.

**TEXT STRUCTURE:**  
**Procedural**

**TO INFORM:**  
**To teach something**

**INTRO** | Introduces the broad subject.

**BODY PARAGRAPHS** | Organize specific details into subtopics.

- **EACH TOPIC SENTENCE** | Names 1 part/facet.
- **SUPPORT** | Describes that single part or facet.

**CONCLUSION** | Emphasizes the significance or importance.

**TEXT STRUCTURE:**  
**Descriptive**

**TO INFORM:**  
**To explain all about something**

**INTRO** | Names items being compared.

**BODY PARAGRAPHS** | Examine two (or more) items by category.

- **EACH TOPIC SENTENCE** | Identifies a category.
- **SUPPORT** | Reveals similarities & differences within that category.

**CONCLUSION** | Draws an overall conclusion about the items.

**TEXT STRUCTURE:**  
**Compare-Contrast**

**TO INFORM:**  
**To study 2 (or more) things**

**INTRO** | Introduces the effect(s) & suspected cause(s).

**BODY PARAGRAPHS** | Describe the effects (or causes).

- **EACH TOPIC SENTENCE** | Names 1 cause/effect.
- **SUPPORT** | Describes why or how one impacts the other.

**CONCLUSION** | Reinforces what happened due to something else.

**TEXT STRUCTURE:**  
**Cause-Effect**

**TO INFORM:**  
**To relate 2 things**

**INTRO** | Introduces the problem.

**BODY PARAGRAPHS** | Describe multiple responses/actions.

- **EACH TOPIC SENTENCE** | Reveals an attempted remedy.
- **SUPPORT** | Describes (& may evaluate) each "solution."

**CONCLUSION** | Reveals the solution, outcome, or current status.

**TEXT STRUCTURE:**  
**Problem-Solution**

**TO INFORM:**  
**To show before & after something**