

# Text Structures Revealed

When constructing a home, an office, or a skyscraper, workers take great care in forming a sturdy structure from the ground up. A building with a shaky structure risks toppling over. Writing needs a solid structure, too. Otherwise the ideas risk falling apart in the minds of the readers.

Text structure refers to the arrangement of ideas in a piece of writing. Different structures communicate ideas in different ways. Take a tour of common text structures to discover how ideas take shape in your reading and writing.

Explanatory

Persuasive

Narrative

## Basic Structure

All forms of writing require three basic parts: a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Without each part, the writing won't form a complete whole. Check out this basic structure in paragraphs and essays.



## Explanatory Structures

Explanatory structures help you to explain or share information. Different patterns of details work best for different explanatory forms. Find a pattern that best serves your writing purpose.

### Basic Explanatory



When writing an explanatory essay, introduce your thesis in the beginning. Then develop main ideas and supporting details in separate body paragraphs.



### Comparison-Contrast



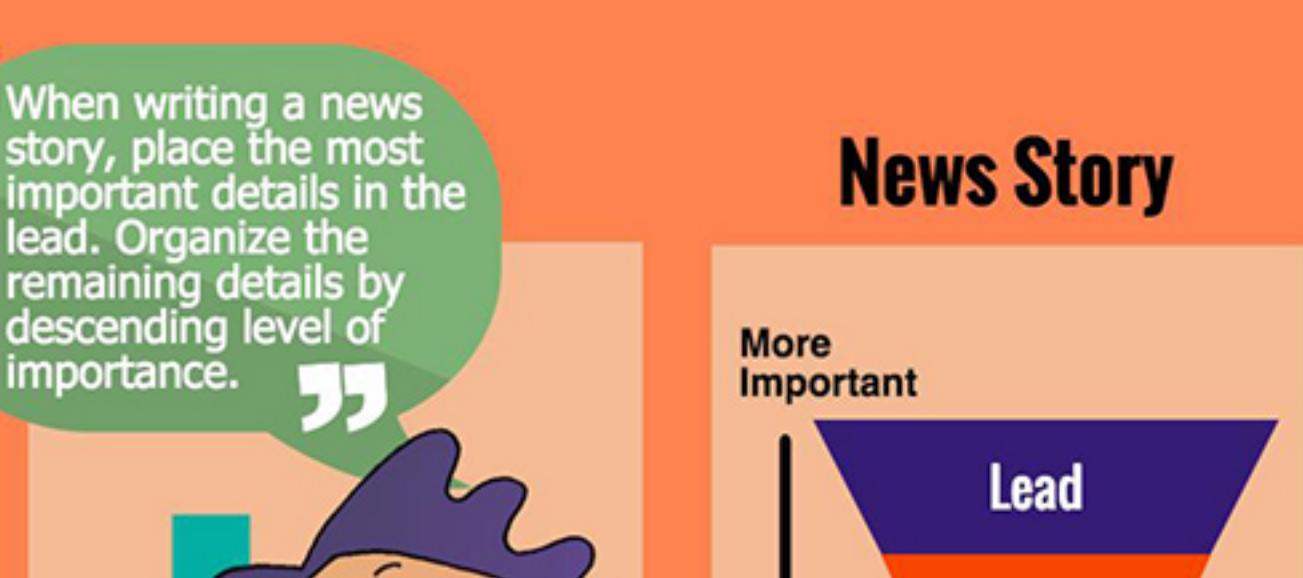
If your topic has many causes, explore each cause separately. If your topic has many effects, explore each effect separately.



### Cause-Effect



### Classification



Classification structure breaks down a big topic into separate groups or categories.



### News Story



### Process/How-to



## Persuasive Structures

The purpose of persuasive (argumentative) writing is to convince readers to agree with an idea or to do something. When you write this way, organize your details in an order that best serves your purpose.

### Basic Persuasive



When writing to persuade, begin with your opinion. Then give reasons to support it using plenty of evidence. Explore each reason separately.



If you expect your readers to resist your opinion, start off by answering a main objection readers may have to your opinion.



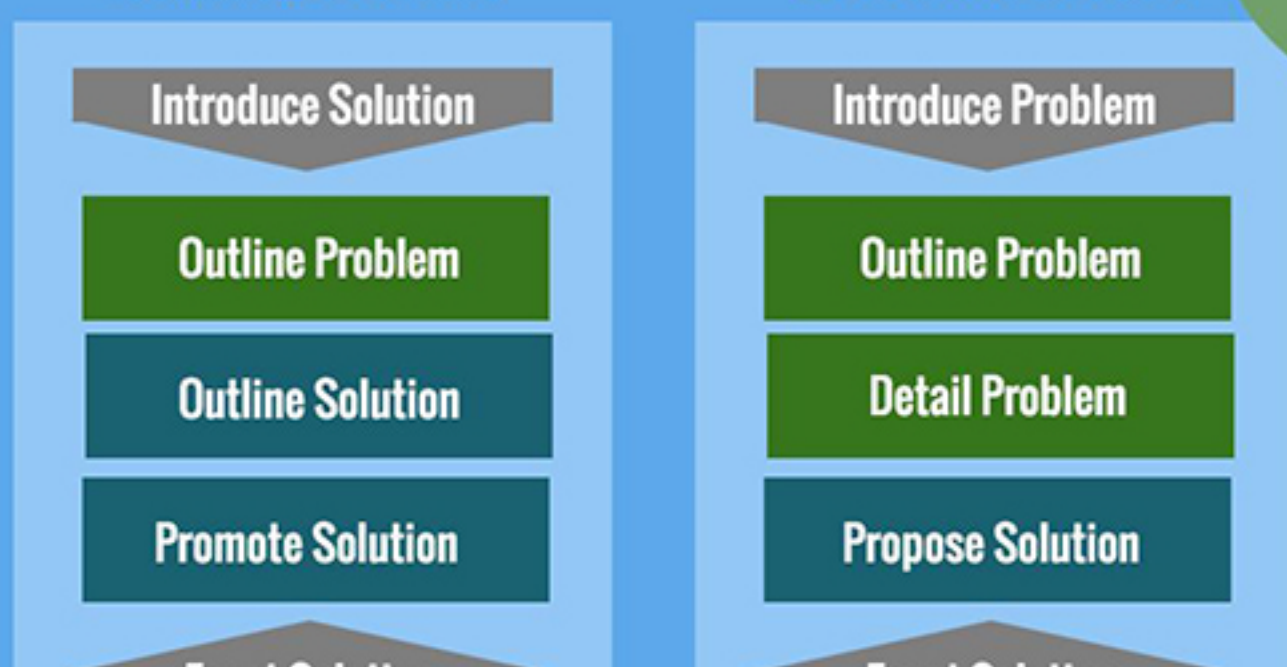
### Argumentative



If you need to argue why a certain solution will work, choose a solution-focused pattern. If you need to convince readers why something is a problem, choose a problem-focused pattern.



### Problem-Solution



## Narrative Structure

The purpose of narrative is to tell a story. Narrative structure follows time order. It includes a beginning, a middle, and an ending just like other structures, but each part builds suspense.

### Narratives, Short Stories, Plays Novels



- Exposition:** Establish the characters, setting, and main problem (conflict) facing the characters.
- Rising Action:** Describe a series of struggles that build to the climax.
- Climax:** Create the most intense part of the story, with the main character facing the conflict head on.
- Resolution:** Reveal how the problem is solved and bring the story to a close.

## Text Structure and Learning Standards

Here's a summary of the the CCSS anchor standards taught by this infographic.

### Reading Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.5 Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

### Writing Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1 Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

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