

NON-NARRATIVE (INFORMATIONAL) TEXT PATTERNS

Organizational Pattern	Description	Common/everyday text forms	Questions	Signal Words	Appropriate Graphic Organizers
Chronological Sequence	Organizes information according to events in the order of their occurrence or appearance in time.	Historical event descriptions News articles Biological growth/evolution/chemical reaction descriptions Assembly/installation/recipe instructions	- What sequence of events is described? - What events happened first? Last? - How is the order of events communicated?	Before, During, After, Immediately, Initially, Later, Following, As soon as, Next, Meanwhile, Now, Soon, Today, Until, Then	Concept Map Flow Chart Time Line
Comparison/Contrast	Organizes information according to similarities and differences	Consumer product ratings Health and safety guides	- What is being compared? - How are the items alike? - How are the items different?	Although, Both, But, In common, As well as, Compared with, Different from, Similar to, As opposed to, Still, Yet	Comparison Matrix Double Cell Diagram Venn Diagram
Concept/Definition	Organizes information about a word or phrase that describes a generalized idea. Often defines a concept by presenting characteristics and/or examples.	Poem Taxonomies Parts lists Seed catalogue Automobile brochure	- What is being defined? - What characteristics does it have? - What characteristics does it lack? - What examples are given for each characteristic?	For instance, In other words, Is characterized by, Refers to, That is, Thus, Usually	Hierarchy Diagram Concept Map Web
Description	Organizes information by highlighting the facts that describe specific places, persons, things, and events. Might 'paint' a visual using words or use an image.	Travel brochure Travelogue Encyclopedia	- What is being described? - What are the most important attributes of the thing being described? - Why is the description important?	Above, Across, Along, On top of, Over, Behind, Below, In back/front of, Outside, Beside, Between, Near Use of adjectives/adverbs	Hierarchy Diagram Concept Map Web T-chart (Double-T chart) Flow Chart
Episode	Organizes a large amount of information about specific events. It includes time, place, people, sequence of events and cause/effect.	Historical account News reports Biographies Accident/crime reports	- What is the event? - Where did the event happen? - Who are the people involved? - Why did it happen? - What effects were there on the people involved? On society?	A few days/months/years later, Around this time, As a result of, Because of, Consequently, For this reason, First, Lasted for, Led to, Since then, Began When, Shortly thereafter	Chain of Events Flow Chart Time Line
Generalization/Principle	Organizes information into general statements with supporting details.	Country descriptions Company descriptions NGO descriptions Travel/vacation promotions Appliance promotions Political campaign platforms	- What generalization or principle is being explained? - What support is given for the generalization? - Are the details in logical order? - Is the support sufficient and persuasive?	Additionally, Because of, For instance, For example, Furthermore, Not only...but also, Generally, However, If...then, Often, In fact, It could be argued that, Moreover, Most convincing, Second, Third, Therefore, Typically, In	Continuum Scale Fishbone Fact-and-Opinion Chart Outline
Process/Cause & effect	Organizes information into a series of steps leading to a specific product; or a causal sequence that leads to a specific outcome.	Recipes Manufacturing processes Healthy living conditions guides Causes of disease	- What process or subject is being explained? - What are the specific steps in the process, or what specific causal events occur? - What is the product or end result of the process; or what is the outcome of the causal events?	Accordingly, As a result of, Because, Beginning with, Consequently, Effect of, Finally, First, For this reason, How to, How, If...then, In order to, Is caused by, Leads/led to, May be due to, Next, So that, Steps involved, Therefore, Thus, When...then	Flow Chart Time Line Clock Face