Informational Text Structure

| Text Structure | Description | Signal Words | Signal Questions |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Description | A topic, idea, person, place, or thing is described by listing its features, characteristics, or examples. | for example, for instance, characteristics include, specifically, in addition | What specific topic, person, idea, or thing is being described? How is it being described (what does it look like, how does it work, what does it do, etc)? What is important to remember about it? |
| Sequence 1 2 3 | Describes items or events in order or tells the steps to follow to do something or make something. | before, in the beginning, to start, after, then, last, in the middle, in the end, first, second, third, next during and finally | What items, events, or steps are listed? Do they have to happen in this order? Do they always happen in this order? |
| Cause & Effect | Cause is why something happened. Effect is what happened. Sometimes the effect is listed first. | because, as a result, since, for this reason, in order to, ifthen, if, due to, so, leads to, consequently, therefore | What happened?Why did it happen?What caused it to happen? |
| Problem Solution | Tells about a problem (and sometimes says why there is a problem) then gives one or more possible solutions. | problem, issue, cause, therefore, because of, due to, solve, so, then, since, therefore, consequently, as a result, cause, solve and resolve | What is the problem? Why is this a problem? Is anything being done to try to solve the problem? What can be done to solve the problem? |
| Compare & Contrast | Shows how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different. | similar, similarly, alike same, just like, both, different, unlike, in contrast, on the other hand, compared with, different from | What things are being compared? In what ways are they alike? In what ways are they different? |