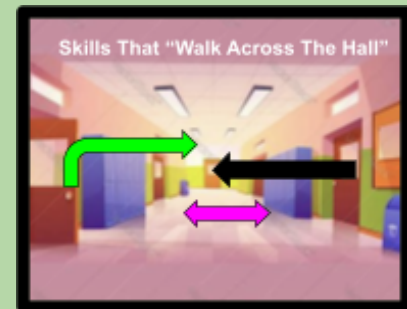


The “Why” Behind The Annotation of Text in Middle School:

- Students annotate to find the text structure. Then, they use the text structure to write a summary.
- Skills for close reading, annotation, and determining text structure “walk across the hall.” This means they are useful skills in any academic or arts discipline.
- Annotation and close reading trigger student recognition of typical text patterns and structures. Once we learn to see and name them, our brains are wired to see and recognize them everywhere.
- The text structure tells you the main idea. The main idea isn’t handed to you. You have to **untangle** it.



The Paragraph Summary Formula

- Write the topic sentence: **“In {title}...{author}...{verb}...{topic}...{point re: topic}.”**
- Write what you captured from identifying the text structure used in the passage:

• Compare & Contrast

• Cause & Effect

Problem/Solution

• Sequence

• Description

c. Write the conclusion sentence:

- Re-state the main point
- Message or
- Call to Action

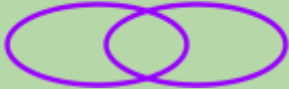
Student Practice: Use these to practice IDing text structure before applying it to a lesson on crafting the summary. [Identifying Text Structures with Short Non-Fiction Passages](#) [Identifying Text Structures Worksheets](#)

The Steps:

1. Start with (present) a simple one-sentence summary example.
2. **Teach how to ID text structures and how to** backward outline with text structure using simple graphic organizers. Suggestion: [Start with Compare and Contrast](#).
3. **Teach how to use** a backwards outline to find the main idea statement
4. **Teach how to expand** a backwards outline into a summary.
5. **Model, Model, Model**

Example paragraphs: (with bolded signal words)

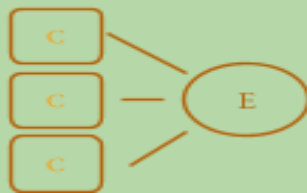
• Compare & Contrast



Compare and contrast:

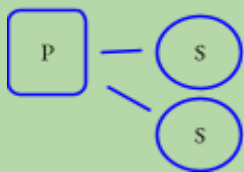
In the Article, *King Versus X*, Mr. Smith **compares** the tactics of Malcom X to Martin Luther King, JR. during the American civil rights movement. King advocated nonviolent resistance and integration, **while** Malcolm X promoted self-defense and separatism. The text emphasizes their divergent ideologies and strategies, illustrating the complexity of the era and the varied ways activists sought racial equality. [Signal words. Compare and Contrast Worksheets and Resources.](#)

• Cause & Effect



Cause and Effect: In the article “From Forest to Desert”, Dr. LumberJack Chainsaw **describes** the long-term effects of Amazon rainforest deforestation. The depletion of this ecosystem, driven by agriculture and logging, **endangers** species and **disrupts** biodiversity. Additionally, reducing tree cover exacerbates the global climate crisis by diminishing carbon dioxide absorption. The text emphasizes the interconnected consequences of deforestation, urging readers to **recognize and address** the far-reaching impact of human activities on the environment. [Signal words. Cause and Effect Worksheets and Resources.](#)

Problem/Solution



Problem/Solution: In the article “Don’t Bag the Pacific,” Dr. Grocery Bagget tackles the issue of ocean plastic pollution. Identifying excessive plastic consumption and poor waste management as root causes, the text **proposes solutions such as** stricter regulations on plastic production, public awareness campaigns to reduce plastic use, and the development of sustainable alternatives. The goal is to **inspire action** and **address** the urgent environmental challenge of ocean plastic pollution. [Signal Words. Problem/Solution Worksheets and Resources.](#)

• Sequence



Sequence: In his article “The Great Space Race,” Professor Rocket TahNowhere **chronicles** the history of space exploration, starting with the Space Race, the first human in space, and moon landings. The narrative progresses through the era of space shuttles, the construction of the International Space Station, and ongoing efforts to explore Mars. The concise chronological account offers readers a comprehensive **overview** of key milestones and advancements in space exploration, capturing the scientific, technological, and geopolitical aspects that have shaped humanity’s cosmic journey. [Signal Words. Sequence Worksheets and Resources.](#)

• Description



Description: In the article “Six Senses of The Amazon,” Dr. Smelya Later vividly depicts the Amazon rainforest’s diverse ecosystems, **capturing** the lush biodiversity, interconnected species, and unique **sensory** experiences. Through rich **imagery**, the text transports readers to this awe-inspiring environment, emphasizing its beauty and the urgent need for conservation. Signal words. [Description Worksheets and Resources](#).



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