

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Brown - Reading

# Text Organization

*When you understand how the writer has organized information, you will understand and remember the text better. Writers organize text in several different ways to fit their purposes.*

## Sequence

The writer places events in the order in which they happen. This is known as **chronological order**. Look for words like "first," "then," "finally," "a few minutes later," "next," "after lunch," "last year."

Example:

- First, Rhett was late getting to school. Then, he lost his homework. A few minutes later, the teacher asked him to clean out his desk. Now Rhett thinks it will be a bad day.

## Comparison/Contrast

The text shows how ideas or things are alike or different. Look for words like "best," "more," "better," "less," "worse," "easier," "than."

Example:

- The best time to visit the Rocky Mountains is early fall. The weather is cooler in the fall than in the summer. You will see fewer people and more animals. The fall colors are more beautiful.

## Cause/Effect

The text shows that one event causes another thing to happen. Look for words like "because," "then," "since," and "as a result."

Example:

- It rained for the first few days of the camping trip. As a result, most of the campers were restless and wanted to go home.

## Problem/Solution

The text is split into two parts: One part presents a problem, and the other part gives the solution to the problem. Look for words like "problem," "solution," "solve," and "plan."

### Example:

- The city of Taylor has fifteen public swimming pools. In the past, plenty of lifeguards have been available for staffing the pools throughout the summer. Most of the lifeguards were teenagers out of school for the summer. This year, however, not enough lifeguards have signed up to work. The city has started asking healthy, retired people to be lifeguards. They will be trained by the city for free if they will agree to work 10 hours per week at a city pool. They will be paid \$8 an hour for their work.

**The problem:** Taylor doesn't have enough lifeguards to staff its city swimming pools.

**The solution:** Encourage retired people to become certified lifeguards and work at the pools.

## Description

The text simply describes a situation or a thing. Passages that are organized to describe often use a lot of adjectives.

### Example:

- My boat runs very well. It would be the perfect boat for a weekend with the family, and/or water sports. The open bow makes it ideal for bringing some extra people and catching some nice sun. The boat has two covers, a V8 OMC engine, depth finder, Four Winns trailer, open bow, and extras such as vest, fire extinguisher, and paddle.

## Proposition/Support

The text presents a suggestion or a proposition. Then, the author supports his or her suggestion with reasons. This pattern is often found in editorials.

### Example:

- The school needs to invest money in repainting the lines in the parking lot. The yellow and white lines have faded so badly that many people do not notice them. Confused drivers cause traffic jams in the parking lot during pick-up and drop-off times. Repainting the parking lot lines will make everyone safer.

## Question/Answer

The writer presents a question and then tries to answer it.

### Example:

- Many schools are thinking about this question: Should students be made to wear uniforms? I believe they should not. First, clothing is a very important way that kids express themselves . . .

## Classification

This type of structure can be very helpful when writing research reports. All of the information is organized by like groups.

### Example:

- You are writing a paper about the food pyramid. One paragraph is devoted to the benefits of fruits and vegetables. One paragraph is devoted to the benefits of breads and carbohydrates, and so forth.

## Definition

The text defines a difficult term or idea. The definition is stated and expanded with examples and restatements. Look for bold or italic words to emphasize new vocabulary.

### Example:

- The **pharaoh** was the ruler of ancient Egypt. The pharaoh was believed to have been the human form taken by the gods. One of the best known pharaohs is Tutankhamun, who ruled during the 18th dynasty.

## Narration

The text has details about people and events that tell a story.

### Example:

- Allison looked at the ocean waves from the comfort of the ship. She could stare at the waves for hours because they never came back the same way; they were always changing. They were nothing like the humdrum life on the ship, which consisted of short, repetitive conversations and reading. There was nothing else to do. Allison couldn't wait for the next stop.

**AFTER READING EACH PASSAGE, CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER TO EACH QUESTION.**

1. "Organic" refers to the way farmers grow and process their produce. Fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meat are often grown and processed this way. These are often more expensive than inorganic products and spoil easily. Unlike conventional or inorganic farmers, organic farmers use natural fertilizers and methods to reduce pests and diseases. Organic farmers do not give antibiotics or growth hormones to animals like conventional farmers. In addition, organic farmers do not use medication to prevent diseases in animals. While conventional farmers give limited space to their animals indoors, organic farmers allow their animals to access the outdoors.

How does the author's use of the organizational structure support his or her purpose?

- ☐ A. It shows the order of events in which organic farming developed.
- ☐ B. It shows the importance of growing and processing food organically.
- ☐ C. It shows the different branches of inorganic farms in rural areas.
- ☐ D. It shows how organic and inorganic farming methods are different.

Most people think of a person lying on the couch reflecting on memories to a doctor when they think of psychology. In fact, psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior. Although psychology was studied as a philosophical subject in ancient civilizations, it began to be studied experimentally in nineteenth-century Germany. German physician Wilhelm Wundt established the first psychology laboratory in 1879. It was Sigmund Freud, the Austrian physician, who made psychology widely popular.

However, psychology is more complex than that and includes many branches. Biological psychology is focused on the study of the biological reasons for human or animal actions. Similarly, clinical psychology is concerned with the treatment of diseases or problems of the mind. While cognitive psychology is about the mental processes or thoughts, behavioral psychology is mostly about the study of behavior. Another interesting branch of psychology is the comparative one: it is mostly limited to the study of animal behavior and mental life. Developmental psychology seeks to understand how people change their behavior as they age. Another important branch is social psychology as it studies human beings in social situations. There are many branches of psychology that study specific fields such as sports, industrial, and educational psychology. Researchers have spent a lot of time studying the mind and behavior of people and animals.

2. How does the organizational structure of this passage support the author's purpose?

- ☐ A. It classifies the mental processes of animals.
- ☐ B. It compares psychology with other sciences.
- ☐ C. It defines the idea of a psychologist by examples.
- ☐ D. It shows how psychology is in fact complex.

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3. This passage uses classification as a form of organization because

- ☐ A. it lists several branches of studies in psychology.
  - ☐ B. it compares one field of psychology to another.
  - ☐ C. it describes the cause and effect of studying the mind.
  - ☐ D. it lists the chronological development of psychology.
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An ascetic is a person who devotes his or her life to spiritual or religious goals. An ascetic does this by living an extremely simple life. For example, an ascetic will deny him or herself normal pleasures of life. What most people cannot live without, like the Internet or television, the ascetic gives up easily.

In the context of religion, monks and sages live the life of an ascetic. They do so in order to have a stronger connection with their god. Ascetics believe that the mind and body need to change through control. They exercise a control of bodily actions, speech, and thoughts.

Although some might view asceticism as negative, those who practice it find peace in it. In addition, having a control of one's senses gives a person satisfaction. Ascetics experience a greater peace of mind than the average people.

4. How does the organizational structure of the passage support the author's purpose?

- ☐ A. It arranges facts about ascetics from least to most significant.
  - ☐ B. It gives facts and examples about the idea of an ascetic.
  - ☐ C. It lists a historical development of the practices of ascetics.
  - ☐ D. It gives arguments to persuade people to become an ascetic.
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5. The organizational structure of this passage is

- ☐ A. definition.
  - ☐ B. sequence.
  - ☐ C. cause/effect.
  - ☐ D. compare/contrast.
- 

Doughnuts and bagels are popular choices for breakfast in America. However, they differ not only in calorie content or the process of making them but also in their history.

The bagel was first invented in Kraków, Poland, as an alternative to *Bublik*, a lean bread designed for Lent. *Bajgiel* became a staple of the Polish diet in the 16th and 17th centuries. Bagels became so popular in Poland that they were used as gifts for women during childbirth. Mothers used them as teething rings, a popular practice to date.

Many Jewish families would make bagels on Saturday evenings so they could rest the next day. There are many accounts of how the word “bagel” originated. One of them is that the word comes from the Yiddish *beygl*.

When bagels made their way to Russia, where they were known as *bubliki*, they were sold on strings. Like many ring-shaped objects, *bublikis* supposedly brought good luck.

They were brought to the United States by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. A successful business developed in New York City. The bagel only came to be widely used all over America in the last quarter of the 20th century. A Canadian-born astronaut Gregory Chamitoff even took a batch of bagels into space in 2008.

The history of donuts is a little unusual. It is believed that a cow in colonial times kicked over a pot of oil onto a mixture of pastry. This was a tasty mistake as it helped people develop doughnuts.

Prior to the Revolutionary War, these were known as *olykoeks*, Dutch for oily cakes. This was a time when Manhattan was under control of the Dutch.

During the First World War, doughnuts were the symbol of home for the soldiers in France. Female Salvation Army workers, who took these treats to the homesick soldiers, were known as “Doughnut Girls.” The boys who waited eagerly for the doughnuts were known as “Doughboys.”

After World War I ended, Adolph Levitt, a Russian refugee, invented the first doughnut machine in 1920 in New York City. While doughnuts were declared the “Hit Food” of the century in 1933 Chicago’s World Fair, they continued to be a favorite treat for Americans.

Once again, as American soldiers fought in World War II, Doughnut Dollies, who replaced Doughnut Girls, brought the soldiers doughnuts.

Today, it is the favorite food of Barack Obama, the 44th President of the U.S.

6. The organizational structure used in this passage is

- ☐ A. compare/contrast.
  - ☐ B. cause/effect.
  - ☐ C. definition.
  - ☐ D. classification.
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7. How does the author's use of the organizational structure support his or her purpose?

- ☐ A. It shows the influence bagels and doughnuts had on American soldiers
- ☐ B. It shows the reason bagels were invented to replace doughnuts.
- ☐ C. It shows how doughnuts became more popular than bagels.
- ☐ D. It shows how bagels and doughnuts have their own unique histories.

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Nationalism refers to the feelings of devotion and loyalty to one's own nation. It reflects the national spirit. One may understand it as a form of patriotism. When a country and its people express a desire for the progress or independence of their country, they show nationalism.

Often, nationalism is reflected in the principles and actions of a nation. For example, the people of a country maybe mostly concerned with its benefit. Sometimes, they seem to neglect how their actions may affect other nations. If taken to an extreme degree, nationalism can have negative results. During World War II, Germany's extreme nationalism had many negative results. Under Hitler's leadership, the German nationalists exterminated millions of people. It was then believed that these people did not fit into the idea of a superior, German race.

Nationalism is also the idea of a country based on its arts, history, and ambitions. The folk stories, idioms, songs, and beloved books of a nation show outsiders a picture of it. Thus, the idea of a country based on the people's love for it reflects nationalism.

8. The passage is organized using a structure of

- ☐ A. sequence.
  - ☐ B. cause/effect.
  - ☐ C. definition.
  - ☐ D. classification.
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9. How does the organizational structure of the passage support the author's purpose?

- ☐ A. by listing various groups and subgroups of nationalism
  - ☐ B. by showing how nationalism is different from patriotism
  - ☐ C. by providing an example of nationalism to explain the idea
  - ☐ D. by describing how nationalism has changed over time
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Read the recipe below for cooking pancakes.

**Ingredients:**

1/2 cup flour	1/4 cup uncooked oats	1/8 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. baking powder	1/4 cup milk	1 egg
1 tbsp. oil	1/2 tsp. vanilla	cinnamon and nutmeg

**Directions:**

Place flour, oats, salt and baking powder in a large mixing bowl. Stir. Add milk, egg, and oil. Beat lightly. Mix in vanilla and a dash of cinnamon and nutmeg. Spoon into greased frying pan. Cook until golden brown, then flip and cook the other side for a minute or two.

10. The structure of the recipe above is

- ☐ A. compare and contrast.
- ☐ B. sequence.
- ☐ C. definition.
- ☐ D. cause and effect.

