

Text Structures

Why ARE THEY
IMPORTANT?

How CAN THEY HELP
ME WHEN READING
AND WRITING?

TEXT STRUCTURES
CAN Change

Text Structures

KEY

Text structure is the way a text is arranged or **organized**.

Authors organize text in to make the information easier for a reader to **understand**.

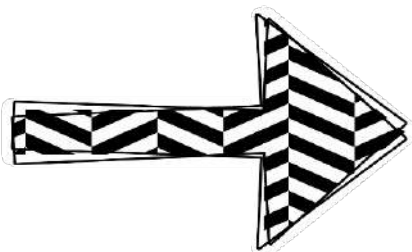
Being aware of these organizational **patterns** will help you **read** with better **understanding** and **write** with more **precision**.

The text structure can **change** several times within one selection.

It can even change **within** one paragraph!

Analyzing Nonfiction Text Structure

Ask YOURSELF:



- 1 What is the author's **purpose** in writing the text? Does it persuade, **inform**, or entertain?
- 2 What is the **subject/topic** of the passage?
- 3 How is it **organized**? Does it...
 - follow a **sequence**?
 - describe** the topic in detail?
 - present a **problem** and **solution**?
 - compare** two or more items?
 - show a **cause** and **effect** relationship?
- 4 Which **signal** words do you see?
- 5 Which **text features** are used?

Summarize
what you
have
learned.

Text Structures

Description

Look for these
signal words and
phrases:



This pattern of organization gives readers a detailed **description**. It gives readers a mental **image** of the topic.

For instance...

Looks like...

Features...

Made up of...

Characteristics...

Specifically...

For example...

Consists of...

In fact...

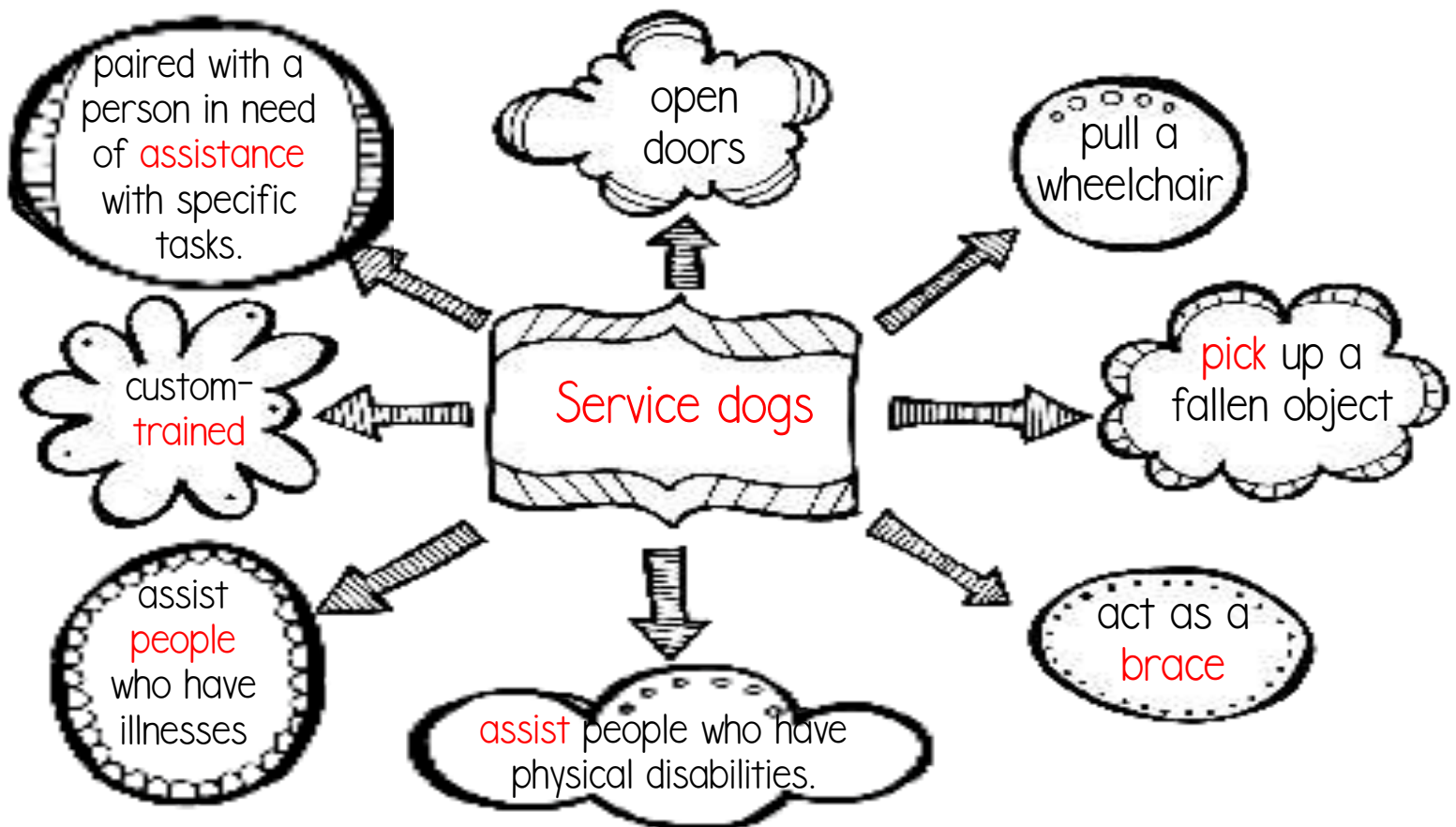
Beside...

Near...

Such as...

Read. Then underline the signal words and phrases.

Service dogs are custom-trained to assist people who have illnesses or those with physical disabilities. Dogs are paired with a person in need of assistance with specific tasks. For instance, service dogs can be taught to open doors, pull a wheelchair, or pick up a fallen object. In fact, the dog can even act as a brace to help a client get up after falling down.



THINK LIKE A WRITER

Circle the topic for which it would be best to use a description-based text structure?

Dogs are better pets than pigs.

Dogs come in all shapes and sizes.

C

Text Structures

KEY

Sequence
& Order

Look for these
signal words and
phrases:



This structure explains how to **do** or **make** something in a specific **order**.

During...

First/second...

Then...

Next...

Last...

Initially...

After...

As soon as...

Steps...

Following...

At the same time...

Meanwhile...

Last...

Initially...

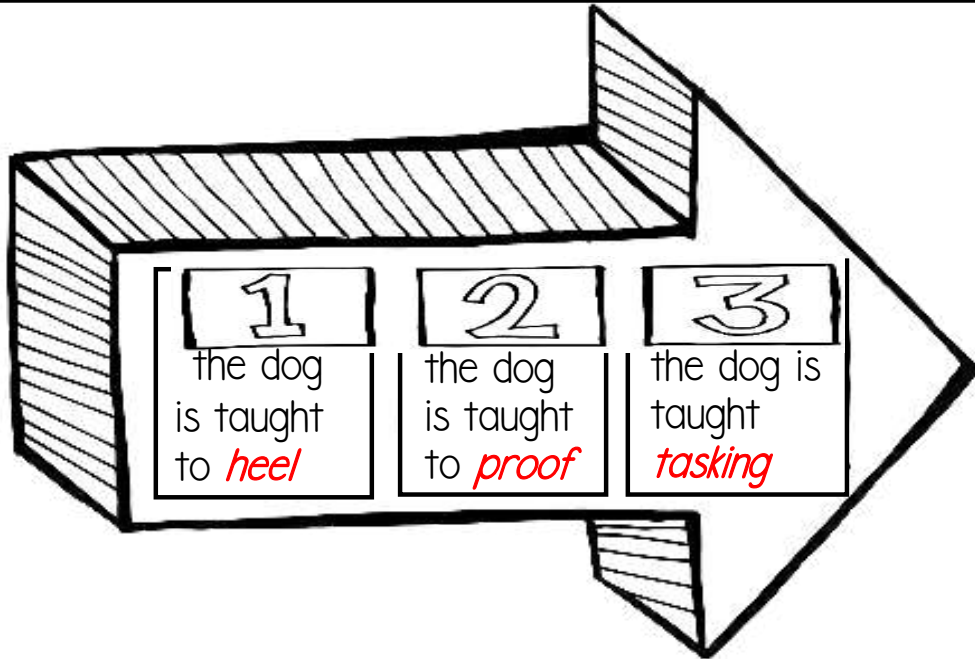
Directions...

Before...

Now...

Read. Then underline the signal words and phrases.

Service dog training follows three phases. **First**, the dog is taught to *heel*. This means the dog walks beside the trainer, not in front or behind. **Then** the dog is taught to *proof*. This requires training the dog to tune out distractions. **Finally**, the dog is taught *tasking*. This is teaching the dog the specific tasks they will be performing.



◆◆◆◆ THINK LIKE A WRITER ◆◆◆◆

Circle the topic for which it would be best to use a sequence & order organizational structure?

The steps to take when bringing a new pot-bellied pig home as a pet.

How to be ready for training problems that may arise with a pet pig.

Problem & Solution

Look for these
signal words and
phrases:



This text structure describes a **problem** and its solution(s).

Problem...

Difficulty...

Issue...

Dilemma...

Answer...

Solve...

Answer...

Solution...

As a result of...

In order to...

So that...

Led to...

Advantage...

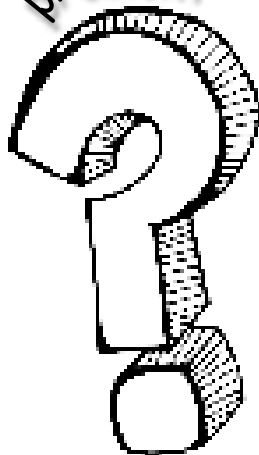
Disadvantage...

Read. Then underline the signal words and phrases.

Some people try to train their own service dog, but this can present difficulties and rarely leads to successful training. The answer is to learn training techniques under an experienced trainer, so that poor training habits can be avoided.

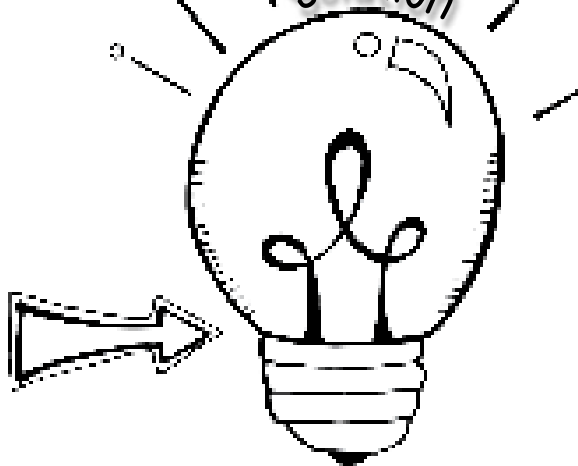
people try to train their
own **service dog**,
but this can present
difficulties

problem



learn **training**
techniques under an
experienced trainer

solution



THINK LIKE A WRITER

Circle the topic for
which it would be best
to use a problem &
solution organizational
pattern?

A day in the life
of a dog walker.

**How to handle
challenges that may arise
when encountering a
stray dog.**

cause effect

Look for these
signal words and
phrases:



This text structure describes a **reason** and its effects.

Because...

So...

Causes...

Therefore...

As a result...

Since...

In order to...

Consequently...

Outcomes...

Impact...

Effects of...

Influenced by...

When...then...

If...then...

In order to...

Is caused by...

Leads to...

Reasons for...

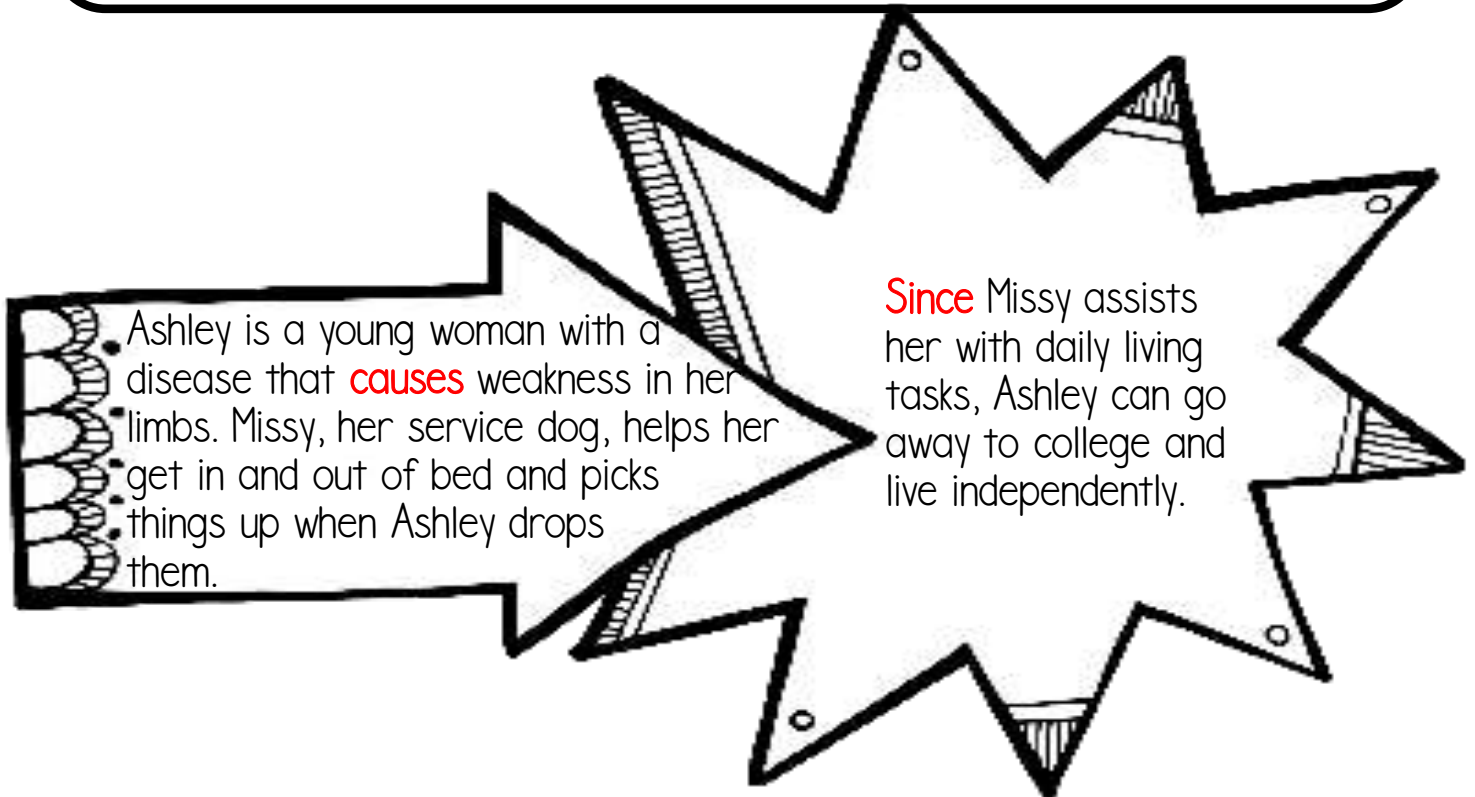
Due to...

For this reason...

On account of...

Read. Then underline the signal words and phrases.

Ashley is a young woman with a disease that **causes** weakness in her limbs. **Therefore**, Missy, her service dog, helps her get in and out of bed and picks things up when Ashley drops them. **Since** Missy assists her with daily living tasks, Ashley can go away to college and live independently.



THINK LIKE A WRITER



Circle the topic for
which a cause & effect
text structure would be
most suitable.

**The benefits that
result from
adopting a pet.**

How to build a
habitat for your
pet iguana.

Compare & Contrast

Look for these signal words and phrases:



This organizational pattern **compares** and contrasts specific elements of two or more things.

Both...

Also...

too...

Just as ...

Instead of...

However...

Alike...

Despite...

Alike...

Unlike...

But...

Similarly...

Opposite...

Different from...

Compared to...

Read. Then underline the signal words and phrases.

Service dogs and therapy dogs are **both** extensively trained to offer support in different ways. Service dogs are individually trained to perform specific tasks and do work that their handler can't do because of a disability. They are highly trained to perform tasks that will help their handler attain safety and independence. Therapy dogs **also** receive extensive training. **However**, their job is to provide psychological therapy to individuals other than their owners. These dogs have friendly, easy-going temperaments, and typically visit hospitals, schools, and nursing homes. **Unlike** service dogs, they are encouraged to interact with people.

Service dogs

Therapy dogs

BOTH

*tasks that will help their handler attain safety and **independence**

*individually trained to perform **specific** tasks

*both extensively **trained**

*their job is to provide psychological **therapy** to individuals other than their owners.
 *friendly, and typically **visit** hospitals, schools, and nursing homes.
 *encouraged to **interact** with people.

THINK LIKE A WRITER

Circle the topic for which a compare & contrast text structure would be most suitable.

Solutions for bad doggie smell.

Should you adopt a dog or a cat?