main idea	key details
summarize	paraphrase
text features	interpret
text structure	integrate
compare & contrast	cause & effect

sequence problem & solution description

The text structure that shows similarities and differences between two or more things. Signal words include alike, different, distinguish between.

The most important idea in a paragraph or larger section of a nonfiction text. In a story, it helps the reader understand what the story is mainly about.

The text structure that explains "what happened?" and "why did it happen?" Signal words include because, since, and as a result.

Words or phrases that give the reader important information about the main idea of a text.

The text structure that describes an order of events or steps in a process. For example, a passage might list the most important events in MLK Jr's life in chronological order, or a passage might list the steps you should follow to make a birdhouse. Signal words include first, next, finally, or after that.

A short statement that presents the main idea and key details in a nonfiction text.

The text structure that describes a conflict and also suggests one or more ways to overcome or resolve the conflict. Signal words include difficulty, conflict, answers, resolutions

A restatement of information in a passage or text in "your own words" in order to simplify and clarify. If you are doing research, you would not copy facts directly from your source, but instead you would write the facts into your own words.

The text structure that describes characteristics, actions, sensory details. Signal words include characters, features, sensory words.

Elements in a text such as a table of contents, chapter headings, bold words, captions, and photographs, which help the reader to better understand the text.

The pattern or arrangement of ideas in a text passage. How the author "builds" the text.

To explain the meaning of information provided on a chart, graph, diagram, time line, or other visual presentation.

For example, you may be given a graph that shows important information about the topic and asked to explain what information is shown on the graph and how this information can help you better understand the text.

To combine information from two or more texts on the same topic. For example, you might research honeybees. You use several sources to gather interesting facts, and then you combine them to write your own informational paragraph.

The text structure that describes an order of events or steps in a process. For example, a passage might list the most important events in MLK Jr's life in chronological order, or a passage might list the steps you should follow to make a birdhouse. Signal words include first, next, finally, or after that.