

**Student Group Names:**

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### Find the Nonfiction Text Structure Group Activity

Nonfiction writing is carefully planned for the readers that the book, magazine, or article targets. Authors use text structures to help readers understand the text. There are five different text structures readers should look for when reading. Understanding nonfiction text structures helps readers interpret text.

Text Structure	Definition	Key Words
Description	Uses language to help the reader form images or visualize a process	Descriptive adjectives and words like on, over, beyond, or within
Sequence	Presents ideas or events in the order in which they happen	Words like first, second, before, after, finally, then, earlier, later, or last.
Compare and Contrast	Discusses two ideas, events or phenomena showing how they are similar and different.	Words like while, yet, like, unlike, similarly, the as well as, on the other hand, or opposites.
Cause and Effect	Provides explanations or reasons for phenomena	Words like because, since, if, then, as a result, or consequently.
Problem/Solution	Identifies problems and poses solutions	Words like propose, conclude, problem, solution, the evidence is, or a reason for.

Directions: In your groups, discuss and identify the text structure of the books found at your table. After 5-7 minutes, you will need to make a decision and then, as a group, you will move to a new table. Be sure to look at all the books and listen to everyone's opinion. Do not just listen to one person. Make sure your opinion is heard. Sometimes you might be the only one who is right!

Table 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Table 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Table 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Table 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Table 5: \_\_\_\_\_

**Developed for the lesson plan by Michael Stencil, Sr.**

Michael Stencil, Sr. is the school librarian at Westminster East Middle School, Carroll County Public Schools, Westminster, MD.

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**Identifying Non-Fiction Text Structure**

Source: *School Library Monthly*, March 2011, Vol. 27 Issue 6, p. 13-15.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Participation Self-Assessment

Give yourself a rating from one to five representing your behavior during the "Finding the Nonfiction Text Structure" Activity.

How well did I...	Not at all			Very Well	
Stay on task	1	2	3	4	5
Listen to other's opinions	1	2	3	4	5
Share my opinion	1	2	3	4	5

#### How well did the group...

Stay on task	1	2	3	4	5
Respect other's opinions	1	2	3	4	5
Share their opinions	1	2	3	4	5

#### Additional Comments about Group Behavior:

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### Exit Matching Slip

**Directions: Draw a line from the nonfiction text structure to its correct definition.**

Description	Presents ideas or events in the order in which they happen
Sequence	Discusses two ideas, events, or phenomena showing how they are similar and different
Problem/Solution	Uses language to help the reader form images or visualize a process
Cause and Effect	Identifies problems and poses solutions
Compare and Contrast	Provides explanations or reasons for Phenomena

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