

INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 11 MODEL

TASK 11 IDENTIFYING EXPOSITORY STRUCTURES

STEP 1: Using “Teaching Expository Text Structures” provided below, review the various structures. If students are unfamiliar with these structures or the task, model discovery of the structures using familiar passages or the selected text. (This step may be omitted for students that are already familiar with text structures.)

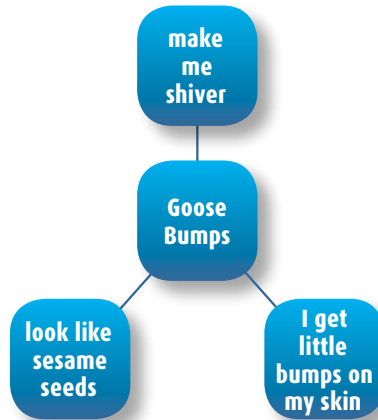
Source: http://www.sbusd.org/cms/lib/CA01000811/Centricity/Domain/42/Supplemental_ResourceTeaching_Text_Structure.pdf

Structure 1: Description: The author describes a topic by listing characteristics, features, attributes, and examples:

Goose bumps make me shiver. I get little bumps on my skin. They look like sesame seeds.

Signal Words:

- for example
- characteristics
- for instance
- such as
- is like
- including
- to illustrate

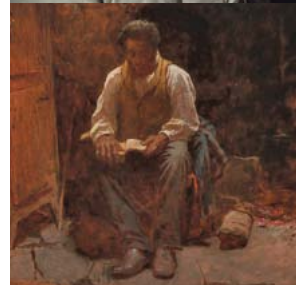
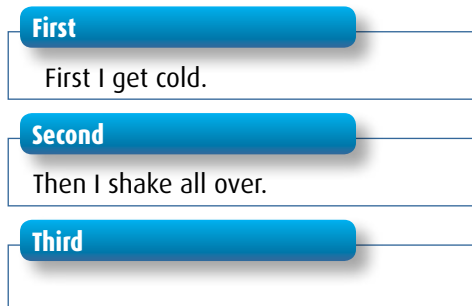


Structure 2: Sequence: The author lists items or events in order; either explicit or implied:

Goose bumps make me shiver. First I get cold. Then I shake all over.

Signal Words:

- first, second, etc
- next/then
- finally
- before/after
- since
- now
- previously
- use of actual dates



INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 11 MODEL (continued)

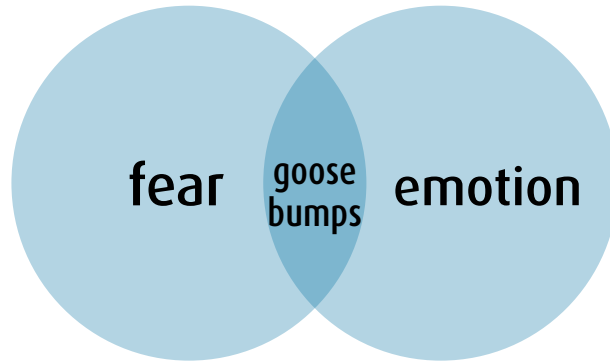
STEP 1 (CONTINUED)

Structure 3: Compare/Contrast: Information is presented by detailing how two or more events, concepts, theories, or things are alike/different.

Some people get goose bumps from fear. Others get goose bumps when they are touched emotionally.

Signal Words:

- however/but
- nevertheless
- similarly
- although
- also
- in contrast
- different/alike
- either/or

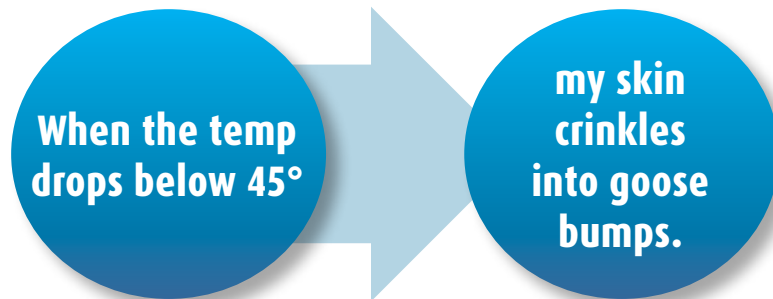


Structure 4: Cause and Effect: The author presents ideas, events in time, or facts as causes and the resulting effect(s)/facts as a result of an event.

Goose bumps make me shiver. When the temperature drops below 45°, my skin crinkles into goose bumps.

Signal Words:

- if/then
- reasons why
- as a result/ therefore/because/ consequently/due to
- since
- so that
- hence
- thus

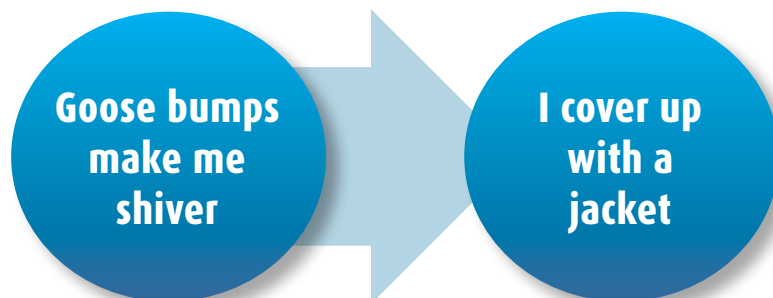


Structure 5: Problem and Solution: The author presents a problem and one or more solutions to the problem.

Goose bumps make me shiver. But they disappear as soon as I cover up with a jacket or sweater.

Signal Words:

- problem is
- dilemma is
- if/then
- because
- so that
- question/answer



INSTRUCTIONAL TASK 11 MODEL (continued)

STEPS 2-3: Select an explanatory text for student review. Identify the text structures present in the reading (not all text structures are always present). *DI: If text structures are new to students select text passages that reflect a single text structure for study, or using small groups, give students different excerpts/readings on the same topic with different text structures.)* Student read selected text without stopping.

STEP 4: Students then re-read the text and annotate pointing out phrases and passages that serve as examples of the expository text structures. Use different colored highlighters or different symbols or other distinctions for each text structure.

The following is an excerpt from:

BLIZZARD

(FROM HE.BLIZZARD.MCADAMS.CONTENTGALEK—COLLECTION #)

by E.N. COONS

<http://www.americanheritage.com/content/blizzard>

...The family consisted of Dad, born 1885, who was a pioneer of the Old West and very rugged; Mama; and three children: Edna, twenty; Ethel, fourteen; and myself, Elbern, eighteen...

He is describing the family

... We plowed up a strip of prairie soil about fifty feet wide by two hundred feet long and twelve inches deep. Then we put in water enough to make a mudhole and rode horses back and forth until the dirt was sloppy. We added to that slop two or three wagonloads of wheat straw, then took six or eight horses and walked them back and forth until the straw and mud were mixed real good...

Sequencing the events....

...I had to grow up real fast in that thirty-six hours of hell and can still see those frozen faces. The only nice thing I can say is, we lost almost everything we owned, but we all lived through it. We could start over....

Compare and contrast...signal word, BUT

...We went on, and as we entered Lamar, the temperature had reached thirty below zero. Lamar is only about three thousand feet elevation, and our farm is about four thousand feet. So we were not feeling the impact of what was happening at home, for we lived on the upland prairie and Lamar is on the Arkansas River...

Cause and effect, signal word SO

...We could see a drift about sixteen feet high, almost like a knife blade, across the road. No way could we get on top or walk around it, for that would have been suicide, we knew. Only one chance left: Drive through it, punch a hole in it. This drift was about sixteen or eighteen feet through. We knew this was life or death, for if we stopped in that drift, we would soon suffocate...

Problem/solution

ROBERT

STEP 5: If desired, use the graphic organizer for support. Review student selections as a class. Consider following up this task with “Questioning the Author” so that students can both identify structure and critique the writing.