

## Cause and Effect



Cause is why something happened. Effect is what happened. (Sometimes the effect is listed first.)

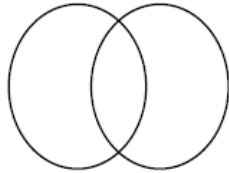
### Signal Questions

What happened?  
Why did it happen?  
What caused it to happen?

### Signal Words

so because since therefore  
if...then this led to reason why  
as a result may be due to effect  
of consequently  
for this reason

## Compare and Contrast



Shows how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different.

### Signal Questions

What things are being compared?  
In what ways are they alike?  
In what ways are they different?

### Signal Words

same as similar alike as well as  
not only...but also both instead of  
either...or on the other hand  
different from as opposed to

## Sequence



Describes items or events in order or tells the steps to follow to do something or make something.

### Signal Questions

What items, events, or steps are listed?  
Do they have to happen in this order?  
Do they always happen in this order?

### Signal Words

first second next then before  
after finally following  
not long after now soon

## Problem and Solution



Tells about a problem (and sometimes says why there is a problem) then gives one or more possible solutions.

### Signal Questions

What is the problem?

Why is this a problem?

Is anything being done to try to solve the problem?

What can be done to solve the problem?

### Signal Words

question is... dilemma is...

the puzzle is... to solve this...

one answer is... one reason for the...

## Description



A topic, idea, person, place, or thing is described by listing its features, characteristics, or examples.

### Signal Questions

What specific topic, person, idea, or thing is being described?

How is it being described (what does it look like, how does it work, what does it do, etc)?

What is important to remember about it?

### Signal Words

for instance such as... to begin with

an example to illustrate

characteristics