

Grade 7 Playlist: Analyzing Structure

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.5:

- Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.

Welcome

Kate is reading a paper on the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She thinks that the paper is well organized because each section provides clear information and builds on the previous section. She has no trouble understanding the development of ideas throughout the paper. Kate plans on keeping this paper in mind next time she has to write one herself.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text.
- determine how the major sections of a text contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas in the text.

Review

Key Terms

- **Text structure** refers to the way the main idea and details are organized within a text.
- Complex texts often have more than one main idea, with separate details to support each main idea. A **major section** is a piece of text that contains its own main idea and details supporting that main idea. Sometimes a major section is a single paragraph, while other times it is a group of paragraphs under a heading.

Exploring the Standard

A Closer Look: Types of Text Structures

Text structure is important because it directs the reader from one point to another. It helps the reader better understand the text, and it advances the author's purpose. Read a few examples of commonly used text structures listed in the following table. When might an author choose to use each one?



Text Structure	Example
definition	Vegetable soup is a healthy, easy-to-make treat. It can be made from nearly any vegetables, like potatoes and carrots or mushrooms and spinach. Even though a cook of any skill level can make soup, it is important to make it correctly. The method of cooking the soup depends on the vegetables.
chronology (time order)	When making vegetable soup, the first step is to sauté harder vegetables such as carrots and potatoes in a small amount of oil. Then, add broth to the pan and simmer for five to ten minutes. Finally, add mushrooms, spinach, and other softer vegetables to the soup.
comparison	When making vegetable soup, harder vegetables such as carrots and potatoes have to be sautéed in oil first because they require additional cooking. On the other hand, softer vegetables such as mushrooms and spinach can easily overcook. For this reason, it is important to add them at the very end.
cause/effect	When making vegetable soup, it is important to sauté the hard vegetables first and cook them the longest. Then, add the softer vegetables in the final minutes of cooking. As a result, all vegetables will be cooked just right, and none will be overcooked or undercooked.
problem/solution	When making vegetable soup, it can be difficult to make sure that all of the vegetables are cooked perfectly. To solve this problem, sauté the hard vegetables before cooking them, and add them to the pot first. Wait until the end to add the softer vegetables to the pot, and they will not overcook.

It is sometimes easy for readers to determine which text structure an author uses. But if readers are having trouble, it is helpful to examine the words used by the author to connect sentences: *then*, *finally*, *on the other hand*, *as a result*, or *to solve this problem*.

Watch!

This video explores different types of text structures:

- <https://www.opened.com/video/identifying-text-structures-video/1537281>

Text features such as headings can make a text's structure easier to follow. Read the following text from the Library of Congress about American composer Leonard Bernstein. While reading, first determine the main idea of each paragraph. Then, determine which structure is used and how the sections of this text contribute to the main idea of the text as a whole.

