Teaching Notes

The goal of RI.3.8 is for students to be able to describe logical connections between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Activities

1. One cause in a story might have multiple effects. Find a text in which this occurs. Then, show students how they can make a cause and effect tree (like the one here: http://fcit.usf.edu/fcat/references/strategies/ce1.htm) to help explain the relationships found within the text from one single incident.
2. While they aren't nonfiction, comic strips are an easy way for students to understand sequencing. Comic strips can be cut into different pieces, and students can have fun organizing them into an order that develops the relationships between the events and characters. Try it with comics straight from the newspaper, or use an online version of Garfield comics at this link: http://www.professorgarfield.org/ReadingRing/Strips/strips.html

Writing Prompts
A great way to encourage sequencing as a way to describe connections is to mix up the order of events in an informational text, like a recipe. This can be done by having students write about a simple topic, like how to make scrambled eggs. Encourage students to use transitional words like *first*, *next*, and *finally*. Then, "scramble" the story into a different order and allow a different student to try and put it back together again in the correct order.

Additional Resources
Consider these additional resources when teaching RI.3.8:

Cause and Effect: This online lesson plan examines three different books and enhances the idea of signal words, implicit effects, and relationships.
http://www.readworks.org/lessons/grade3/cause-and-effect

Text Structure Activities and Graphic Organizers: This online lesson from the Florida Center for Reading Research allows students to examine individual sentences to determine what type of text structure is used.
http://www.fcrr.org/studentactivities/c_022c.pdf

Additionally, this link gives a great variety of graphic organizers to help aid student understanding:
http://www.fcrr.org/studentactivities/c_023c.pdf