

Teaching Notes

The goal of RI.6.5 is for students to learn how to analyze the structure of a text and its structural components, such as sentences, paragraphs, and sections. Students will need to understand different types of text structures and the relationship between text structure and main idea. In the module, transition words are briefly mentioned. However, a longer discussion on transition words can greatly enhance students' ability to comprehend the structure of a text. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classroom as well as an additional resource to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Activities

1. Lead the class in a discussion about transition words. First, ask students to give examples of transitions that can be used for different text structures. Use the transitions in this chart to help them. Be sure to note that some transitions can be used in different text structures and to serve different purposes.

chronology (time order)	first, second, after, later, last, until, till, since, then, before, since, when, once, about, next, now, at the present time, from time to time, sooner or later, at the same time, up to the present time, to begin with, in due time, as soon as, in the meantime, all of a sudden, at this instant
comparison	in the same way, by the same token, similarly, in like manner, likewise, in similar fashion, yet, nevertheless, nonetheless, after all, but, however, though, otherwise, on the contrary, in contrast, notwithstanding, on the other hand, at the same time
cause/effect	because, since, on account of, for that reason, therefore, consequently, accordingly, thus, hence, as a result
problem/ solution	because, since, for the same reason, obviously, evidently, furthermore, besides, indeed, in fact, in any case

2. Divide the class into small groups, and give each group a brief article from a local newspaper or news magazine. Ask students to identify the transition words and phrases and write a brief analysis on how these words indicate the type of text structure used.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching RI.6.5:

- **“20 Strategies to Teach Text Structure”**: This PDF provides 20 strategies to teach text structures as well as graphic organizers and sample paragraphs for each structure:
<https://education.illinoisstate.edu/downloads/casei/3-01-04-handout%20TextStructureResources%201.pdf>

- **“Teaching Nonfiction Text Structures”**: This web page offers a lesson plan with printable PDFs: <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/teaching-nonfiction-text-structures>
- **“How to Teach Expository Text Structure to Facilitate Reading Comprehension”**: This web page provides detailed information about text structure and its role in reading comprehension. It also provides graphic organizers: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-teach-expository-text-structure-facilitate-reading-comprehension>

PREVIEW