### Text Structure: An Organization Tool for Writing

**Targeted Standards:**
- **W.6.4** - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3.)
- **W.7.4** - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3.)
- **W.8.4** - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3.)

Text structure refers to how information within a written text is organized. Not only will teaching students to recognize common text structures help with comprehension, but it can help students organize their own writing.

**Procedure:**
1. Teach students common nonfiction text structures: *Cause & Effect, Sequential, Problem/Solution, Description, Compare/Contrast*
2. Each text structure should be taught individually as students need time to master one structure and its signal words and organization before learning another.
3. Students may be able to grasp easier text structures like sequence and comparison contrast so teachers may want to teach these structures first. Harder structures for students to grasp are description, cause and effect, and problem solution.
4. Teaching students the various text structures can give students ideas on how to organize their nonfiction writing.
5. After studying the key features and vocabulary of each text structure, students can practice integrating the structures into their own writing.
6. Use resources below to find graphic organizers and other tools to help students organize their writing.

**Attachment/Resources:**
- Analyzing Text Structures – 4 Day Lesson for 6th-8th Grade Teachers: [http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/top-teaching/2012/05/analyzing-text-structures](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/top-teaching/2012/05/analyzing-text-structures)
- A variety of resources to teach text structures: [http://www.literacyleader.com/?q=textstructure](http://www.literacyleader.com/?q=textstructure)
- Research from Reading Rockets [http://www.readingrockets.org/article/52251](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/52251)

**Reference/Research:**

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