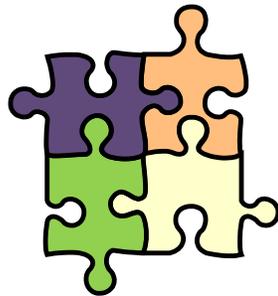
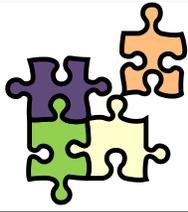


Informational Text Structure Templates



October 2012



Problem and Solution

Pages 1 through 7 have been adapted from materials posted on the Literacy Leader website, <http://www.literacyleader.com>

Purpose: to state one or more problems and provide one or more solutions to the problem.

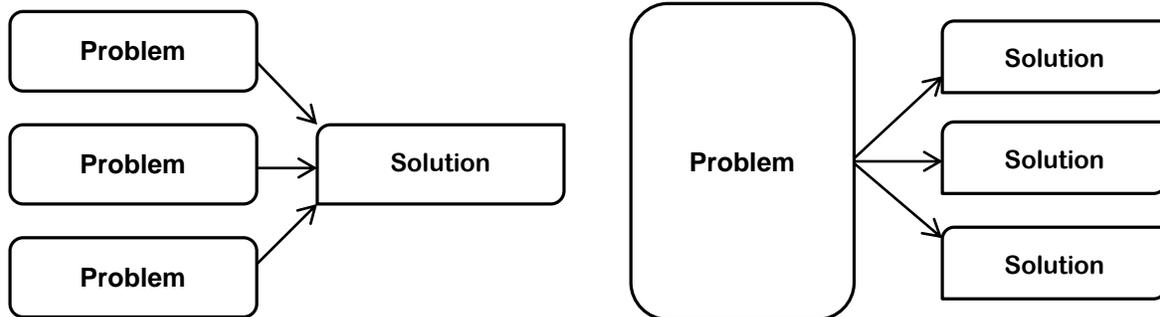
Signal Words and Phrases

advantage	disadvantage	question
answer	in order to	since
as a result of	issue	so that
because	led to	solution
cause	problem	solved
dilemma	puzzle	

Comprehension Question Frames

1. What is the problem?
2. Who has the problem?
3. Why is it a problem?
4. What is causing the problem?
5. What solutions have been suggested or tried?
6. What are the pros and cons of various solutions?
7. Which solutions worked or seem to have the best chance for solving the problem?

Graphic Organizers





Description

Purpose: to explain a topic, concept, person, place, event or object, by providing characteristics, features and/or giving examples.

Signal Words and Phrases

descriptive words (e.g., color, shape, size)

position words (e.g., above, along, beside, between, in front of, near)

appears to be

for example

made up of

characteristics

for instance

most important

consists of

in fact

specifically

features

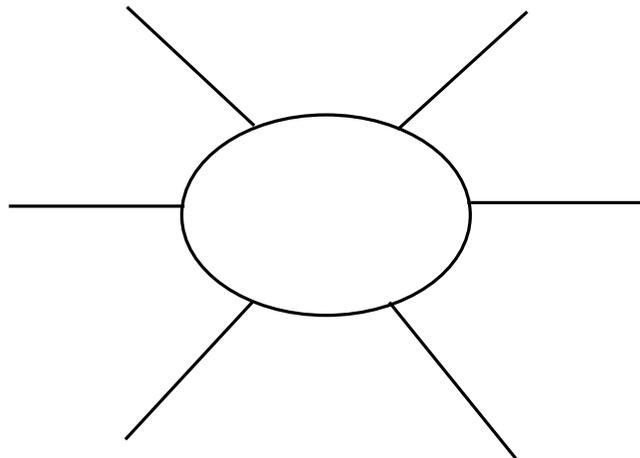
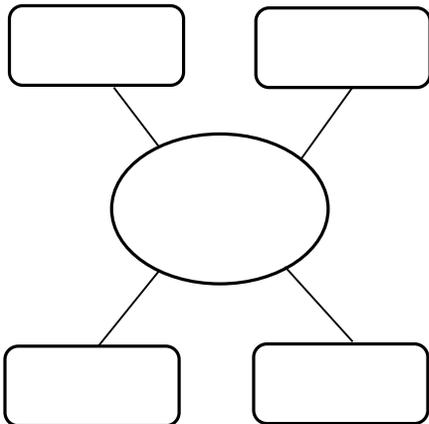
looks like

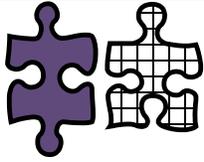
such as

Comprehension Question Frames

1. What is the subject being described?
2. How is the topic being described (i.e., where it is, what it does, how it works, what it looks like, its classification)?
3. What are the most important attributes or characteristics?

Graphic Organizers





Compare and Contrast

Purpose: to describe what is similar and/or different about two or more subjects.

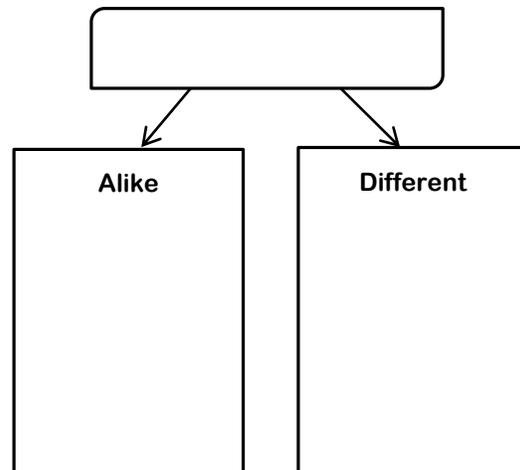
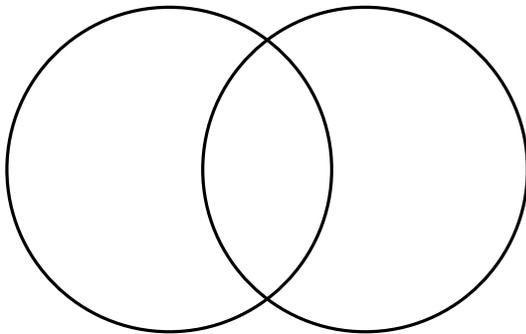
Signal Words and Phrases

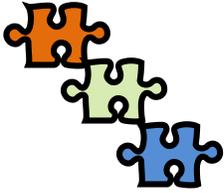
alike	but	in comparison	same as
also	compared to	in contrast	similar to
although	despite	instead of	similarity
as	different from	just	too
as opposed to	either-or	on the contrary	unlike
as well as	however	on the other hand	yet
both	in common	opposite	

Comprehension Question Frames

1. What subjects are being compared?
2. What is it about them that is being compared?
3. What characteristics of the subjects form the basis of the comparison?
4. What characteristics do they have in common? How are they alike?
5. In what ways are they different?

Graphic Organizers





Chronology/Sequence

Purpose: to provide information in time order or the order in which events, actions, or steps in a process occur.

Signal Words and Phrases

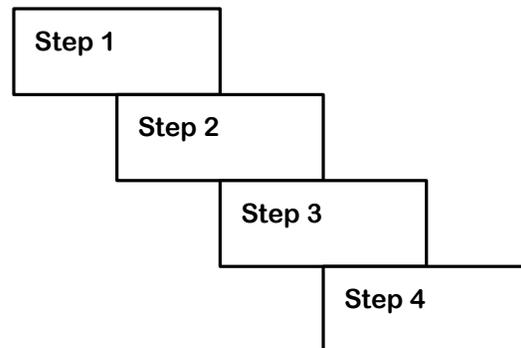
after	finally	later	soon
as soon as	first/second/third	meanwhile	step
at the same time	following	next	then
before	immediately	now	today
directions	initially	prior to	until
during	last	simultaneously	when

Comprehension Question Frames

1. What sequence of events is being described?
2. What are the major events or incidents that occur?
3. What happens first, next, last?
4. How is the sequence or cycle revealed in the text?
5. What are the steps, directions, procedures to follow to make or do something?

Graphic Organizers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____





Cause and Effect

Purpose: to explain why or how something happened/happens

Effect = what happened

Cause = why it happened

Signal Words and Phrases

as a result

if . . . then

outcome

because

impact

reasons for

consequently

in order to

since

due to

influenced by

so that

effects of

is caused by

therefore

for this reason

leads to

thus

how

on account of

when...then

Comprehension Question Frames

1. What were the specific events that happened?
2. Why did the events happen? What were the causes?
3. What were the results or outcomes of these events happening? What was the effect?
4. Did prior events cause or influence the main event? If so, in what ways?
5. What is the significance of the event and/or the results (outcomes)?

Graphic Organizers

