



English Virtual Learning

# English IV

April 14, 2020



Lesson: April 14, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target:**

- I can evaluate the impact an author's structural choices in a text on meaning and aesthetic.
- I can explain my thinking in a well-organized and developed written response and include textual evidence.

# Bell Ringer:

Think about the way you take notes - is there a particular method you like to use? Have you used specific note taking methods for different classes, either by choice or because your teacher told you to? What do your notes look like?

On a piece of paper, summarize your brainstorm above, and respond to the following prompt:

What formatting or structural decisions make information easier to share/understand? Think about note taking, reading, articles, etc. One basic example is breaking up text into paragraphs.

## Learn:

- There are two parts to analyzing a text's structure:
  - a. Identifying the author's purpose - what are they trying to accomplish with the text? (Persuade/inform/entertain?)
  - b. Identifying the structure of the text and how it serves the author's purpose
- First, what is the author's purpose? Just for a quick review, there are three "main" purposes that most texts fall into:
  - **Persuade:** the author is trying to persuade you about something or sway your opinion.
  - **Inform:** the author is trying to share information and spread awareness.
  - **Entertain:** the author simply wants to entertain their audience.

In order to successfully analyze the text structure, we first have to acknowledge what the author's purpose is - then we can discuss how the text structure serves that purpose.

Here are several commonly used text structures, which may seem familiar from previous readings or even your own writing. Here are a few major structures:

<b>Description/List Structure</b>	This structure resembles an outline. Each section opens with its main idea, then elaborates on it, sometimes dividing the elaboration into subsections.	EXAMPLE: A book may tell all about whales or describe what the geography is like in a particular region.
<b>Cause &amp; Effect Structure</b>	In texts that follow this structure, the reader is told the result of an event or occurrence and the reasons it happened.	EXAMPLE: Weather patterns could be described that explain why a big snowstorm occurred.
<b>Compare/Contrast Structure</b>	Texts that follow this structure tell about the differences and similarities of two or more objects, places, events or ideas by grouping their traits for comparison.	EXAMPLE: A book about ancient Greece may explain how the Spartan women were different from the Athenian women.
<b>Order/Sequence Structure</b>	Texts that follow this structure tell the order in which steps in a process or series of events occur.	EXAMPLE: A book about the American revolution might list the events leading to the war. In another book, steps involved in harvesting blue crabs might be told.



## Practice:

- Use the information from your notes you did on the previous slide (refer back to the text if needed) to answer the following prompt on your notebook paper:
  - ➔ **What type of structure does the article use? What effect does it have on the message of the article and its readability?**

# Practice Answer Key:

*(Answers will Vary)*

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
  - Did you write in complete sentences and use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
  - Did you answer every part of the prompt?
  - Did you support and explain your answer using 3 details from the source text?

## Sample Proficient Answer:

*Is Streaming Bad For Artists?* uses a list structure, which works very well for the format the author intended. Based on the title of the article and the structure, the author most likely wrote the article to be informative in order to educate its readers about the effect of streaming on artists. To do this, the article uses a list structure that numbers its sections based on questions. Because the article is informative, the list structure works well, because it allows the author to inform based directly on potential questions from the audience, such as “Why do artists think streaming is bad for them?” The author even says, directly before beginning the list, “Here’s everything you need to know to understand streaming.” Doing this makes it easier for the author to give direct information. Using a list structure also makes it easier to read, because you can read each point individually, and reference the different sections of the article.



## If you're looking for an additional resource:

For more short practice analyzing text structure, here is [another article about the pros and cons of music streaming](#).

