

# Suggestions for Teaching Text Structure via Scaffolded Instruction

## Preparation:

- Use topics (and texts) that you know are *important and interesting* to your students.
- **Select ONE text structure** to focus on at a time.  
[In the beginning, or with beginning readers, start with one of the *easier structures* – sequence or compare/contrast.]
- Select a text that is *not too difficult* for students to read and that has *very obvious signal words* to indicate its structure.

## Scaffolded Instruction:

- *Introduce the text structure* using the selected text. *Note the kinds of signal words* associated with this structure.
- Read the text aloud, asking students only to *listen for signal words*.
- *Provide practice opportunities* using the same text structure with other text samples. Pair students up and ask them to work together to agree on signal words. Be available to assist when needed.
- *Gradually let students work independently* at identifying the text structure and the words that signal it.
- **LATER:** Once students have learned 2 or more structures, provide opportunities for them to match known text structures to various informational texts. As they learn more structures, support them in identifying primary text structure of mixed structure informational text.