

Narrative and Expository Text Differences

Narrative Text

Expository Text

Writing that tells a story:

Writing that informs:

- children's picture books
- fairy tales
- short stories
- novels
- fables
- myths and legends
- anecdotes

- paragraphs
- essays
- textbook chapters
- editorials
- articles
- reports
- manuals

Narrative Elements

Expository Elements

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- setting
 - characters
 - problem(s)
 - attempts to resolve problems
 - resolution
 - theme or moral

- definition
- description
- time sequence
- problem-solution
- comparison
- contrast
- cause-effect
- enumeration
- process
- categorization

Organizational Patterns in Informational Texts

Thought Pattern Characteristics

Definition

Explains the meaning of a term or phrase; consists of class, distinguishing characteristics, and explanation

Time sequence

Describes events, processes, procedures

Comparison-contrast

Describes similarities and/or differences among ideas, concepts, theories, objects, or persons

Cause-effect

Describes how one or more things cause or are related to another

Problem-solution

Focuses on "if . . . then" relationships; identifies problems, discusses causes and solutions

Enumeration

Organizes lists of information: characteristics, features, parts, or categories

Mixed patterns

Combines one or more patterns within a paragraph; for example, in describing the steps in a process, an author might explain why the steps must be followed in the specified order