Text Structures in Informational Texts
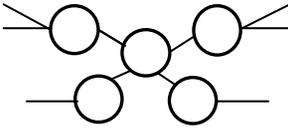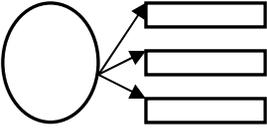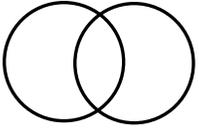
Text Pattern	Definition	Key Words	Maps/Webs	Examples of Texts	Examples of Student Writing
Description	Descriptive details about characteristics, actions, etc.	*Descriptive adjectives and words like: on, over, beyond, within, behind, underneath, on the left/right, appears to be, as in, looks like*		*The crocodile is the master of deception in water. It stalks its prey and then swiftly closes in for the kill.*	*Goose bumps make me shiver. I get little bumps on my skin. They look like sesame seeds.*
Problem/ Solution	Sets up a problem and its solutions.	*propose, conclude, a solution, is resolved, result, the reason for, the problem or question, the effect, one idea*		*One problem to resolve in crocodile watching is transportation. How can an observer get close enough...*	*Goose bumps make me shiver. But they disappear as soon as I cover up with a jacket or sweater.*
Time/ Chronological Order	Gives information in order of occurrence	*first, second, third, later before, after, finally, now, then, next, earlier, during, afterwards, until, meanwhile, eventually, next week, tomorrow, today, immediately, initially, as soon as, following, preceding*		*Archaeologists have helped us to understand that the evolution of the crocodile began with...*	*Goose bumps make me shiver. First I get cold. Then I shake all over.*
Comparison/ Contrast	Looking at two or more items to establish similarities/differences	*while, yet, but ,unlike rather, instead, on the other hand, although , even though, still, otherwise, as opposed to, like, similarly, likewise, same, both, as well as, in common*		*The power of the crocodile is like that of a monstrous machine. With one lunge it can...Compared to the alligator the crocodile...*	*Some people get goose bumps from fear. Others get goose bumps when they are touched emotionally.*
Cause/Effect	Give reason/explanation for happening	*because, since, if then, due to, as a result, for this reason, on account of, consequently, in order to, effects of, is caused by, when…then, leads to*	Cause / Effect	*We observed the crocodile as it stalked a raccoon...As a result of the noise we made, the rabbit bolted...*	*Goose bumps make me shiver. When the temperature drops below 45 degrees, my skin crinkles into goose bumps…*
Argument/ Support	States a position & supports it with data, emotional appeals, expertise, credibility, honesty, and urgency	*Almost, often, if-then, in most cases, maybe, might, probably, usually, according to, due to, consequently, as a result, when…then, leads to*	Position / Support	*No longer on the endangered list, alligators are still in peril due to overbuilding. Therefore to save the keystone of the wetland ecosystem, we must stop development and protect its habitat.*	*If goose bumps occur only in mammals, then the term "goose bumps" is misleading because a plucked goose technically does not qualify. Maybe they should be called "Chill Bumps"!*