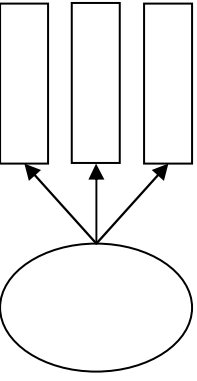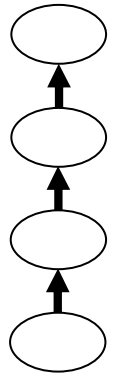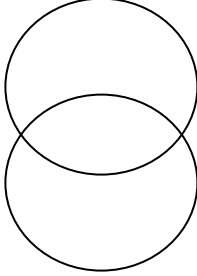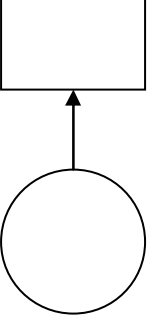# Text Structures in Informational Texts

Text Patterns	Definitions	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 and 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		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		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 the 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!"

Adapted from Exploring Nonfiction by Linda Hoyt Figure 8.1   This material was contributed by Teresa Theriault   M-DCPS Curriculum and Instruction: Language Arts/ Reading