

# 6th Grade Informational Texts: Text Features & Text Structures

## A Four Week Unit

### Week 1

**Snapshot:** Introduction to text features & text structures. Close reading activities for nonfiction analysis centered around the compare / contrast organizational structure. What a great way to begin a deep-dive into reading, writing, and analyzing nonfiction texts!

### Week 2

**Snapshot:** In-depth analysis, practice, and writing assignments centered around problem / solution and cause / effect text structures. Students will continue thinking and writing critically about why writers do what they do in nonfiction texts.

### Week 3

**Snapshot:** In-depth analysis, practice, and writing assignments centered around description as an organizational text structure (even in nonfiction texts!) along with sequencing and chronological structures, too!

### Week 4

**Snapshot:** Students will create an authentic, writing-rich pamphlet project centered around bringing this nonfiction unit to a close. The week starts with an engaging “brain dump” brainstorming activity and ends with a written pamphlet! Each day of the week will have students working through specific prewriting and writing activities that will guide them in the writing project using the text structures and text features they’ve learned about.



# 7th Grade Reading & Writing Expository / Informational Text Unit

## Week 1

**Snapshot:** Intro to the unit and the genre; fact vs. opinion vs. commonplace assertions; annotating & close reading; text features & text structures

## Week 2

**Snapshot:** Thesis statements, various types of irony, writing summaries, reviewing simple, compound, complex sentence structures

## Week 3

**Snapshot:** Excerpts from Helen Keller “The Miracle Worker” play; accompanying expository articles about hearing loss; expository writing reflection activities; objective vs. subjective writing

## Week 4

**Snapshot:** Elements of autobiographies, biographies, memoirs; maintaining parallelism in writing (infinitive & participial phrases); writing concisely vs. descriptively (with purpose)

## Week 5

**Snapshot:** Reading and writing compare / contrast text structure; using text evidence to support understanding; revising and editing

## Week 6

**Snapshot:** Concept of online privacy and modern technology; expository passage writing responses; connection to real life issues involving online privacy and media usage

## Week 7

**Snapshot:** Credible vs. non-credible sources for reading & research purposes; finding a topic for research; using embedded quotes from good sources to support your ideas

## Week 8

**Snapshot:** Continuing with use of embedded quotes and how to write meaningful commentary; how to write an intro & conclusion for an essay; rough draft & final draft for research paper

## Week 9

**Snapshot:** End of unit: two days for review activities; two versions of a unit test; follow-up writing activities for engagement & extension



# 8th Grade Reading & Writing Expository / Informational Text Unit

## Week 1

**Snapshot:** Intro to the unit & genre; author's purpose (inform, explain, describe); transition words/phrases; writing activities

## Week 2

**Snapshot:** Active & passive voice; using infinitive, participle, and gerund phrases to create & maintain parallel structure in writing

## Week 3

**Snapshot:** Deductive vs. inductive reasoning; annotation & close reading with written responses & analysis; online mini-research assignment of expository texts (7 Wonders of the World)

## Week 4

**Snapshot:** Cause & effect in expository writing; objective summarizing, using embedded quotes effectively for support and extension in writing

## Week 5

**Snapshot:** Compare & Contrast text structure in expository writing; objective summary; more practice in using embedded quotes correctly

## Week 6

**Snapshot:** Students learn about finding and using credible online resources for research purposes; how to cite sources (in-text and in a Works Cited or bibliography page); how to use embedded quotes with commentary; paraphrasing & summarizing; putting together a research paper

## Week 7

**Snapshot:** Revising & editing skills, peer presentations, expository essay comparisons vs. narrative essay writing (don't confuse one with the other!)

## Week 8

**Snapshot:** Real-world application of expository writing: job descriptions requiring expository writing skills; resumes and cover letters; mini-research related to future career choices

## Week 9

**Snapshot:** End of the unit; review activities & lessons; two versions of the unit test; follow-up enrichment/extension lessons

