**Your Turn to Practice**

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| Directions   1. Select one of the passages below. 2. Practice modeling a Think Aloud about how you figured out what text structure it follows, including identifying signal words. 3. Select and complete an appropriate graphic organizer for your passage. 4. Select comprehension questions you would ask students to use with this passage. 5. Explain how knowing the text structure helped you locate, organize, understand and recall the content. |
| Practice Passage #1: The Cousins\*  Sally and Maria are both cousins. Sally is tall and has brown eyes. Maria also has brown eyes. On the other hand, Maria is short. The girls live in beautiful states. Sally lives in Maine where it is cold. However, Maria lives in Florida where it is hot.  It snows a lot in Maine. In contrast, it is usually sunny and warm in Florida. Both girls like to play outside. They like to have a friend with them. Sally plays in the snow. She builds snowmen. However, Maria plays in the sand at the beach. She builds sand castles. Florida and Maine are alike because you can play outside.  Sally and Maria are good swimmers. They are both on swim teams. Their pools are different. The pools in Florida are outside. On the other hand, the pools in Maine are inside. So Sally swims in an indoor pool and Maria swims in an outdoor pool. In the summer, Sally and Maria swim in the ocean. Both states are on the coast.  \*From *Empowering Teachers*, Florida Center for Reading Research. 2007. |
| Practice Passage #2: Bats  Bats are animals that fly like birds, mostly at night. They are usually black or brown in color. And their wings look sort of like human hands with skin between the fingers. Bats live a long time, sometimes 30 or 40 years. They live in places like caves, buildings, and under bridges. When they aren’t flying, they hang upside down because their bodies aren’t shaped right for standing up. Bats can be as small as 6 inches or as large as 6 feet with their wings open. Bats eat lots of different things such as insects, moths, and fruit. Some even eat fish or frogs! |
| Practice Passage #3: Alligator Nests\*  A female alligator builds her nest in early April. First, she uses her body and tail to clear an area that is sheltered and near water. Second, she uses her jaws to find vegetation like grass, leaves, sticks, and dirt. After this, she builds a mound and digs a hole in it with her back legs. The nest is finished.  Next the female alligator lays 20–70 eggs. Then she covers the eggs with the vegetation to keep them warm. The eggs are buried 3–14 inches deep in the nest. During this time, the alligator protects her nest from predators such as raccoons, opossums, and skunks. Never go near an alligator’s nest!  After 65–70 days, the eggs begin to hatch. Then the new babies make a sound called “yerping” and the female alligator opens the nest. Finally, the alligator helps some of the babies out of the eggs by rolling the eggs in her mouth. Some baby alligators stay near the nest for about 2 years.  \*From *Empowering Teachers*, Florida Center for Reading Research. 2007. |
| Practice Passage #4: A Neighborhood Comes Together  The members of one city neighborhood were becoming concerned about the health of their citizens. The residents realized more people living in their area of the city had weight-related health problems than those who lived in other neighborhoods. After studying the issue, a group of community leaders found two major factors contributing to poor health and weight gain. One cause was not enough affordable ways to exercise and the other was a lack of grocery stores selling fresh fruits, produce, meats, and other healthy food options.  The community came up with several solutions for providing affordable ways for residents to exercise. The local hospital agreed to open their physical therapy exercise room in the evenings so that neighbors could pay a small fee and use it as a low-cost health club. Area schools began allowing community-sponsored teams to use their gymnasiums, tracks, and ball fields when they weren’t being used for school events. And the Mayor’s office even agreed to apply for a grant to build a walking and biking path through the neighborhood and to add sidewalks on one side of every block that didn’t have them. |

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| Graphic Organizer |
| Comprehension Questions |
| How did applying my knowledge of text structure help me comprehend? |