

Complete Text Structures Collection

Structures for Writing About Life Themes

STORY OF MY THINKING

I used to think
(truism)

But this
happened

So now I think ...
(truism)

PARTS OF A WHOLE

The whole

One part

Another part

Truism

TYPE OF SOMETHING

One kind

Another kind

The worst kind

Truism

SHORT- AND LONG-TERM EFFECTS

What
someone
said

What
surprised me
about that

The effect
it had at
first

The effect
it had later

How this
will help
me later

WHAT THE CHARACTERS KNOW ABOUT _____

What it
means to
most people

One thing she
or he knows
(and how)

Another thing
she or he knows
(and how)

What this adds
up to for the
characters

Structures for Explaining a Concept

CASE STUDY

Question

**My (or
someone else's)
experience**

**What that
shows**

Truism

COMPARING NOTES

**Some people
think ...**

**Other people
think ...**

But I think ...

So I will ...

THE ONION

Truism

**How do I
know this?
(one way)**

**If that
had not
happened,
how else
would I
know this?**

**If that
had not
happened,
how else
would I
know this?**

Truism

RECONSIDERING A BELIEF

**Most people
think ...**

**... because
(one way
it's good)**

**But ... (one
way it's bad)**

So ... (truism)

LIFE LESSON

Truism

**How it's true
in the story**

**How it's true
in life**

**How this will
help me**

Structures for Character Analysis

EVOLUTION OF A TERM

What the word meant to me when I was little

What it meant when I was a little older

What it means to me now

What it will mean to me later in my life

What all this says to me

CHAIN REACTION

One thing that happened

What that caused

What else that caused

How it turned out

Truism

DOUBLE TAKE

What happened

A negative way to view this

A positive way to view this

Which way I think is stronger

Truism

NEWS/GOSSIP: TELL ME, TELL ME

At the time ...

All of a sudden ...

This was surprising because ...

People said ...

It just goes to show you:

CHANGE OF PLANS

Where I was going (and why)

Something unexpected that happened

How my plans changed

What I think (truism)

Structures for Analyzing a Theme in Literature

WRONG ASSUMPTIONS

I made
this wrong
assumption

... happened
as a
consequence

I learned
this truth

So now I
believe ...

FINDING OUT FOR SURE

I've never
been sure
if ...

But I've
always
suspected
that ...

Because
once I
experienced ...

Which
made
me think
that ...

And finally
I realized
that ...

DEFINITION

Definition of
something

How to tell if
something fits
this definition

One example
that fits

Truism

THE 11-MINUTE ESSAY

Truism

How it's
true in
a story

How it's
true in
a movie

How it's
true in
my life

I wonder ...

TEVYE'S DEBATE

On one
hand ...

On
the other
hand ...

But on
the other
hand ...

But on
the other
hand ...

So ...

Structures for Commentary About Plot

STORY OF MY THINKING

**I used to think
(truism)**

**But this
happened**

**So now I think ...
(truism)**

HINDSIGHT REFLECTIONS

**This bad
situation
happened**

**How I should
have reacted**

**How I
did react**

Now I know ...

SURPRISE ENDING

**A big
mistake
someone
made**

**What this
caused**

**How it
turned out**

**If the
mistake
had not
happened**

Truism

WAYS TO DO SOMETHING

Truism

**A bad way
(and why)**

**A better way
(and why)**

The best way

DESCRIPTION

What it is

Kinds of it

**Where you
can find it**

Parts of it

**Truism
about it**

Structures for Making an Argument

CROSSING MY PATH

Real life example

Truism

Example from story

How it relates to me today

Question about truism

NOW AND LATER

Problem

A shortcut solution

A long-term solution

How I would decide which is better

FINDING THE TRUTH THROUGH EXPERIENCE

I heard this

But I thought the opposite

Then I heard about this experience

Now I think this

CURIOSITY

I wondered ...

I figured out ...

Then I also figured out ...

Last I figured out ...

This all means that ...

FIVE-PARAGRAPH ESSAY

Truism

One way to tell (with example)

Another way to tell (with example)

Another way to tell (with example)

How this knowledge can help

Structures for Content-Area Writing

LEARNING FROM MISTAKES

**One way I got
in trouble**

**What
happened
after that**

**What I thought
about my
consequences**

**What I
realize now**

SOLVING A MYSTERY

**What I
know**

**What I
don't know**

**Steps I
took to
find out**

Successful?

**Life lesson
(truism)**

SOMETHING CHANGED

What changed

**How it used
to be**

How it is now

**It helps me to
know that ...**

MAKING A CHANGE

**I wanted to
change this**

**But this was
stopping me**

So I did this

Truism

DISCOVERING THE TRUTH

**Someone
told me
(or I read) ...**

**So I
assumed ...**

**When
actually ...**

**So now I
understand ...
(truism)**