Text Structures: Alternatives to the Schoolified Essay
A Growing Collection

**A Memory**
- Where you were
- Moment it started
- Next moment
- Final moment
- What you thought

**A Colorized Memory**
- Where you were (dramatized)
- Moment it started (dramatized)
- Next moment (dramatized)
- Final moment (dramatized)
- What you thought

**A Completely Made up Story**
- Moment involving character(s)
- Moment when a problem arises
- How the characters try (unsuccessfully) to solve the problem
- How the characters solve it (or deal with it)

**A Fable**
- Animals doing something
- Conversation between the animals
- Action
- Result
- Moral

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Sequel to a Fable

Moral of original fable → But the next day the animals said → And this happened → The result was → New moral

Comparing Notes (Mine and Others')

Some people think → And other people think → but I think → what that tells me

Tevye's Debate

On one hand → On the other hand → But on the other hand → But on the other hand → How I can be guided when the choice is so tough

Evolution of a Term (word or phrase in the prompt)

What the word meant to me when I was 4 → What the word meant to me when I was 10 → What the word means to me now → What the word will probably mean when I am ____ (pick an age)
Spin of a Coin: Finding the Paradox

Two sides of the coin

- How the thought is true
- How its opposite is also true

How they are true in a fiction character

How they are true in a character in history

What strikes me as most puzzling

The Story of My Thinking

What I used to think

but this happened

so now I think

Tribute to the Person Who Taught Me Something

What the lesson is

Description of the person

Flashback to the lesson

Lyrics or words you can remember that person saying (on any subject)

What I wish I could find out now from that person

The Onion – Unlayering What We Know

One (real) belief, something I know

How do I know this? (Tell one way, one thing that happened)

If that had not happened, how else would you know it?

If that had not happened, how else would you know it?

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**Insight Garden**

- An insight about life
- One illustration from literature
- One illustration from a movie
- An illustration from my life
- I wonder

**Mining for Raw Materials**

- The meaning of the statement
- Recent conversation snippets
- Evidence from stories
- Objects (like Forest Gump’s white feather)
- Ancient history
- Sound effects
- Lyrics
- Personal experience
- Movies
- Current events
- Haunting question

After mining, expand at least one fully (or more than one), then shape and design the framing or ribboning.

**TBF (To be found)**

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