

## Text Structures: A Growing Collection

### The Story of My Thinking

What I used to think

But this happened

So now I think

### 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)

The 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

## 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 I was a little  
older

What the word means  
to me now

What the word will  
probably mean when I  
am \_\_\_\_ (pick an age)

## Tribute to the Person Who Taught me Something

What the  
lesson is

Flashback to  
the lesson

Description of  
the person

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

What I wish I  
could find out  
now from that  
person

## The Onion - Unlayering What We Know

One (real) belief  
something we 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

## Insight Garden/The 11-minute essay

An insight about  
life

One illustration  
from literature

One illustration  
from a movie

An illustration  
from my life

I wonder

## Pet Peeve

What you saw  
first

What you said to  
yourself

What else you  
saw

What you  
decided

What you know  
now

## I Will Never

I will never ...

If I did ...

This would  
cause ...

I've seen it  
before like  
when ...

So I have  
decided  
that ...

I will probably  
change my  
mind if ...

## Replacement

I need to  
replace my ...

I used to ...

Now it  
doesn't ...

A new one  
would ...

However ...

And so ...

## Shopping List

I need to  
buy ...

Without it ...

This would  
cause ...

Eventually ...

And so ...

I only hope ...

## A time you watched someone else do something on your won't-do list

I don't think  
I will ever ...

I don't  
understand  
how someone  
could ...

It's true  
that ...

And so it's so  
true that ...

However ...

So ...

## Prized Possession

I just  
couldn't do  
without ...

It has the  
most ...

It has ...

Before I had  
it ...

That's why ...

Without it, I  
would ...

## Conversation: One thing you and your friends talk about

When I was  
young, I  
wondered  
about ...

I thought that  
probably ...

Since then ...

All I really need  
to know now is ...

Eventually I'll ...

## Curiosity: One thing you'd like to know about

I have sometimes  
wondered  
about ...

I know that ...

I also know  
that ...

But I can't figure  
out how ...

Even so, I will  
always ...

## Competency: Something you can do well

I've never/always  
considered myself a ...

But then ...

That's when ...

So now ...

## Conversation: Comparing notes

Some people think ...

Other people think ...

I think ...

What I wonder is ...

## Work moment (Frustrating or Satisfying)

Where you were

What you were  
doing

What you  
heard/saw

What good  
(or frustrating)  
thing happened

What surprised  
you

## Going Against the Grain

Some people  
think

This seems to  
happen because ...

However I  
believe ...

But I know people  
feel strongly ...

Even so I will  
always ...

*Contributed by Christi Gonzales*

## Alternative Solution

Problem

Conventional solution

The problem with that

Another solution

## David Brooks Editorials

This happened

An obvious way to think  
about it is ...

The problem with that  
view is ...

A better way to look  
at it would be ...

*contributed by Thomas Newkirk*

## Giving an Award

Who you choose

One quality  
they have

One moment  
where you saw  
that quality

How that  
affected  
you then

What you  
think of that  
person still

*Contributed by Theresa Phelps*

## Favorite Activity

I like to  
\_\_\_\_\_

My first  
experience  
with it

How you  
do/play it

How it makes  
you feel

Positive results

*Contributed by Theresa Phelps*

## Ethos

You know (of)  
this person

You trust  
this person

This person  
says \_\_\_\_\_

It must be true

## Pathos

We value these things

Look what happened

Isn't that sad

We must do this  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Logos

Here is a point

Reason/Evidence

Proven theories

So

## Syllogism

If this is true

And this is true

Then this must be true

## Cicero's arrangement (dispositio)

Who you are and  
what you want

Exordium

Facts of the case

Narratio

What should be  
done  
(your position)

Confirmatio

Flaws in opposing  
arguments

Refutatio

Summary and  
next steps

Peroratio

## Text Structures Invented by Kids

### Hindsight Reflections

This bad situation happened

How I should have reacted

Rather than making the best of a bad situation, how I did react

Now I know

*Amanda Grosch*

### Seeking an Answer

I had this question

I asked somebody for an answer

I asked somebody else to confirm the previous answer

I tested out the answer for myself with this experience

What I learned from my experience

*Giovanni Ocasio*

### Deception

I saw this happen

And so I did this

But then I realized

So now I know

*Destiny Costly*

### We Agreed

I said this

And she/he said that

But we both agree on this

*Eric Flores*

### The Right Choice

My problem

What my friend thinks I should do

So I decided to ...

Now I think

*Rebecca Dschuden*



## Why We Do Things

This event happened

It caused me to be  
in this mood

Which caused this to  
happen

So now I know

*Shawn St. Hilaire*

## Wishful Thinking

One problem in the world

Why it is this way

What you wish it would be  
like

*Gisela Navarro*

## Maturing Thoughts (over a key word in the prompt)

How important it was to  
you when you were  
\_\_\_\_\_ (young)

How important it was to  
you when you were  
\_\_\_\_\_ (older)

How important it is to  
you now

How your thoughts  
changed as you grew  
older

*Marissa LaRochelle*

## The Unexpected Reaction

What I said

How the listener reacted

What I learned

*Samantha Runnels*

## Action Up

I used to act like this

Then I went  
through this

Which made me  
consider the future  
like this

So now I act like this

*Casey Towle*

## Explanation of a Term

Dictionary -  
like definition

Your personal  
definition

What feeling  
you get  
from it

What others  
make you  
think

Example in  
society today

Another  
example  
(optional)

*Cary Inzerello*

## Following a Path

Where I started  
out in life

Where I found myself

Where I am now

Where I might be in  
the future

*Rebekah Long*

## A Box of Chocolates

What happened

What you  
expected to get

What you really got

How you reacted

*Marco Vidarri*

## Influences and Consequences

I was taught this

But I was influenced  
by this

So I did this

And the Consequences  
were this

*Adam Saenz*

## A Bad Choice

A choice you made

What happened after  
that choice

Things you learned  
later about that choice

What you think now  
about that choice  
you made

*Joseph Kidder*

## Never Ever

What I've never done

Why I've never done it

Will I ever do it?

*Adrian Martinez*

## Temptations

How someone else  
was tempted

So I was tempted

So then we  
did this

Then this  
happened

Then this  
happened

*Tabitha Flores*

## True Friends

My friend would  
always do this

So I believe this  
about them

Then over time, they  
started/stopped  
doing this

So now I think this  
about them

*Dash Dalrymple*

## Anxiety

A fear I have ...

What made me scared ...

Will I be scared in the  
future?

*Amanda Garza*

## Change of Heart

Because I  
thought this ...

I used to feel  
this ...

But this  
happened ...

So now I  
feel this ...

Which makes me  
think that ...

*Anissa Castaña*

## Discovering the Fireworks

What the spectacular event was

How it made you feel

Why it made you feel that way

What it made you realize

*A. J. Ouellette*

## Wrong Assumption

I made this wrong assumption

Something happened as a consequence

I learned the truth

So now I believe

*Diana Diaz*

## Garden of Eden

One time long ago

As time passed

Now ...

*Tara Coleman*

## Expert Testimony

According to this person

According to this other person ...

But according to me ...

So now I think ...

*LaQuette Barksdale*

## Alternate Choices

I can either do this ...

Or I can do this

I choose \_\_\_\_\_ because

*Marisa Farias*

## Elimination or Confirmation

I've never been  
sure if

But I've always  
suspected

Because once I  
experienced

Which made me  
think that

And finally I  
realized

*Michael Gonzalez*

## Sensory Associations

When I  
heard/smell/see ...

It reminds me of ...

Which makes me feel ...

Because ...

*Julee Lanum*

## The Evolution of a Habit

I used to have  
this habit

Because I thought this

But then this happened

As a result, the habit  
was \_\_\_\_\_

*Alexander Burke*

## The Real Deal

I saw someone

I assumed ...

When actually ...

So now I understand ...

*Amber Wojtek*

## What is it? (Defining a Word)

Is it this?

Or this?

Or this?

A memory

Which makes me  
realize it's this

*Adrian Martinez*

## Confusing Testimony

Someone told me  
(an inaccurate thing)

Then I checked I with  
someone else

And that person  
set me straight

How I explain  
that 1<sup>st</sup> person's  
misinformation

*Alexander Burke*

## Yellow Brick Road

This (bad thing)  
happened

And this is how I  
reacted

Then later something  
similar happened

So, reflecting on my  
prior experience, this  
time I did this instead

*Nathan McCann*

## Find and Truth Through Experience

I heard this

But I thought  
the opposite

Then I had this  
experience

Now I think this

*Nathan Hay*

## Not on my Nerves Any More

I used to hate it  
when other people ...

But then I realized I also did it

So now when I see  
other people doing it  
I remember that ...

*Tricia Asher*

## Crossing the River Again

A recurring  
challenge

How the  
challenge first  
came up

But since then  
this happened

How I now meet  
the challenge

How it still  
challenges me

*Clayton Graham*

## Use Your Noodle

I was taught this

What I thought about  
what I was taught

But this happened

So what I now  
think about what  
I was taught

*Brianna Cook*

## You Never Know

I assumed ...

But it turned out ...

So now I think

*Matt Cadena*

## The Idea

I think about a ...

I ask other people what  
they think

We put our thought  
together

We came up with a  
final decision

*Leanna Hernandez*

## Day Dreamer

Sometimes I'm thinking a lot  
about

What made me think it

What this thought means

*Sarah Crickmore*

## With This in Mind

One true thing

With this in mind, it  
will not be possible for  
\_\_\_\_\_

One hardship that  
will create

So now I wonder

*Ashley Brzostowski*

## The Game

There was a perfect time when ...

But then ...

Now I know ...

*Stacey Arias*

## Making a Change

One thing I wanted  
to change

What was stopping me

Even though I  
know this ...

So ...

*Samantha Ross*

## Thinking Hurts

This happened

Which  
caused this

Which made  
this happen

Which  
caused this

Which made me  
think this

*Stephen Crisp*

## Faith in Spite of Experience

Despite this repeated  
bad thing happening ...

I know that ...

So I will do this

*Carmen Garcia*

## Wisdom Tug-of-War

I was always  
told to ...

Then I actually  
wanted

In order to  
keep me on  
the right path

But instead I

I slowly realized  
that

*Bernard Gottschalk*



## Your Actions

Something makes  
you too confident  
in this belief

Your actions cause  
a downfall

So now, you  
act like this

Because now  
you believe

*Marcus Garcia*

## Deciding Through Diverse Opinions

We did this

I thought it was a  
bad idea because

But others  
thought  
differently

So together we  
concluded

So we did this

*Megan Morefield*

## Changing Gears

\_\_\_\_\_ is  
(characteristic)

One thing they  
did that shows  
this

When asked why  
he/she behaved  
in this manner

Gradually

To this day ...

*Inspired by Elise Leal*

## Wo ... Wo ... Wonder

I used to wonder

Because

Be then this happened

So I no longer wonder;  
now I think ...

*Re'Shelle Kibler*

## Line of Thought

One time this happened

Which made this  
happen

Which made me realize  
this

So this happened

*Chris Clay*

## Seeing is Believing

What I did first

But then I saw

And that made me  
think

So then I did this ...

*Molly Pierce and Sarah Sinclair*

## She Saw

She saw ...

And she thought

I saw the  
same thing

And I thought

So I guess

*Adria Warner*

## Who Reacted When

Why this happened

How this happened

When this happened

What people  
thought about it

*Alex Blue*

## Metamorphosis

How you  
felt before  
it happened

How you felt  
while it was  
happening

How you felt  
after it happened

How you feel now

What you believe  
now

*Kelsey Mahan*

## What the Heck

My friends  
did this

I thought  
about it

I believe  
\_\_\_\_\_ so

I did this

They reacted  
like this

So now, we ...

*Casey Lewis*

## The Influence of We

What I thought

How I felt about  
this thought

What others  
thought about my  
thoughts

What I thought  
about my  
thoughts after  
others told me  
what they  
thought

What I know

*Sarah Chu*

## Cause and Effect

I did this

It caused this

Now I know this

*Celeste Ramirez*

## Life Lesson, Past and Future

What the life lesson is

What it means to you

How it affected  
your life (past)

How it will affect  
your life (future)

*Adam Hinds*

## Backfire

I did this

Because of  
\_\_\_\_\_

What I was  
hoping for

But instead this  
happened

So now I think

*Armando Barrera*

## Life Lessons Learned

I never realized  
\_\_\_\_\_

Until this happened

Then I realized

So now I try ...

*Amanda Walker*

## Discovering A Lie

Someone told me

So I believed

Then I found out

So now I think/know

*Alyssa Flores*

## Changing Your Mind

I believe this

But society  
proved me wrong  
by doing this

So then I  
believe this

But then this  
happened

So now I believe  
this

*Greg Herbst*

## I Wish

I wish that

But I know

And knowing this

Makes me believe ...

*Steven Young*

## Arguing

I said this ...

They said that ...

We argued  
because of  
\_\_\_\_\_

How we resolve it

Now I think this

*Remy Locasio*

## Then What?

One way I got in  
trouble

After that this  
happened

Then this  
happened

I was thinking  
about my  
consequences

So now I think

*Artemis Martinez and Justin Garza*

## Dilemma

Choice:  
Staying the  
same or  
changing

What change  
would mean

Biggest  
disadvantage  
of change

Biggest  
disadvantage  
of staying the  
same

How change  
might make it  
worse

What happens  
if you just  
don't decide

Hamlet - Act 3, Scene 1

## Problem/Solution

Why  
people  
deliver  
messages  
like this

Our deep  
belief

How things  
are  
supposed  
to work

The  
problem

Proof

What we have  
tried  
(unsuccessfully)

Our  
solution

Declaration of Independence

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