

Writing Component Cards

Writing Component Cards: Visual Representation of Text Structures and Features

When we read a piece of text, our comprehension is supported if we can *deconstruct* the structure of that text. And our writing is stronger when we can *construct* pieces using a well-organized text structure. The Keys to Literacy *Writing Component Cards* are visual representations of text structures and features that are typically included in informational and argument text. Teachers and students can manipulate the wall cards to create a visual representation of the text structure for text they are reading or writing.

Directions for making the cards:

Use cardstock paper, 8.5 by 11, in these colors: white, yellow, blue, green, pink, orange. Print the following terms using the color, size, and number indicated below. Then laminate the cards.

White:

- Introduction: 1 full-size
- Body: 1 full-size
- Conclusion: 1 full-size
- Overall Topic: 1 half-page
- Introduce Topic: 1 half-page
- Preview Subtopics (on one side), Preview Reasons (on the other side): 1 half-page
- Lead: 1 half-page
- Restate Topic: 1 half-page
- Summarize Subtopics (on one side), Summarize Reasons (on the other side): 1 half-page

Yellow:

- Title: 1 half-page
- Heading: 4 half-pages
- Graphic: 4 half-pages

Blue:

- Section: 4 full-size

Green:

- Main Ideas & Supporting Details (on one side), Reasons & Evidence (on the other side): 8 full-size

Pink:

- Counterclaim: 1 full-size
- Rebuttal: 1 full-size

Orange:

- State Claim: 1 half-page
- Restate Claim: 1 half-page

Directions for using the cards:

Start by placing the white INTRODUCTION, BODY, and CONCLUSION cards at the top of a blank wall or bulletin board. Add the white OVERALL TOPIC card above.

For *deconstructing* or *constructing* a writing piece:

- **Introduction**
 - Place the associated cards under the INTRODUCTION card if the piece contains these components: LEAD, INTRODUCE TOPIC, INTRODUCE CLAIM (for argument), PREVIEW SUBTOPICS (for informational) or PREVIEW REASONS (for argument)
- **Body: Informational**
 - Place SECTION cards under the BODY card if the piece is organized into sections with headings. Then place the appropriate number of MAIN IDEA cards under each SECTION card.
 - If the body of the piece only includes paragraphs and no sections, place the appropriate number of MAIN IDEA cards under the BODY card.
- **Body: Argument**
 - Place the appropriate number of REASON cards under the BODY card.

- Place a COUNTERCLAIM and REBUTTAL card under the BODY card if these are included in the piece. Arrange the COUNTERCLAIM and REBUTTAL cards with the REASON cards based on the order they are presented in the piece.
- **Conclusion**
 - Place the associated cards under the CONCLUSION card if the piece contains these components: RESATE TOPIC, RESTATE CLAIM (for argument), SUMMARIZE SUBTOPICS (for informational) or SUMMARIZE REASONS
- **Text Features**
 - Place the TITLE card next to the OVERALL TOPIC card if the piece has a title.
 - Place a HEADING card next to any SECTION cards
 - Add and arrange GRAPHIC cards to represent places in the text that include tables, charts, or pictures.

To affix the cards, use tape, tacks, or Velcro strips depending on the surface you are using.