How to Write Informative

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Directions: In the chart below, read the paragraph in the box. Think about what kind of structure the author used. Once you can identify the structure, you can move more fluidly between structures and have good flow in your own writing. Here are some examples of the most common strictures used in Informative Writing.

- *Cause and Effect*
- *Problem and Solution*
- *Main Idea*
- *Description*
- *Compare and Contrast*

Text	Structure
Have you ever heard the expression about the straw that broke the camel's back? Well, in 1774, during the buildup to the American Revolution, the British government decided to pile on more straw. Four laws were passed that year limiting the freedom of colonists in Massachusetts. The colonists hated them so much that they called them "The Intolerable Acts."	
The first act passed on June 1, 1774. Called "The Boston Port Act," it closed Boston Harbor to all commerce. The next two acts were passed later that summer and upset the colonists even more. The first was the "Massachusetts Government Act," which had profound effects on everyone in the colony. The fourth act is known as the "Quartering Act of 1774." All together, these acts were called the “Intolerable Acts.”	
What could a law do to upset people so much? One law, example, was the Administration of Justice Act. This law allowed for British officials accused of a crime in Massachusetts to stand trial in Great Britain. It sounds fair in today’s world. However, you must think with historical empathy. In those days, it could take as long as six hard months to cross the Atlantic, meaning it would be excruciating for any colonial witnesses to go and testify in London. A British official could harass colonists however he pleased and then return home to avoid justice. In theory, an employee of the crown could actually get away with murder!	

Text	Structure
France assisted the Continental Army. Benjamin Franklin worked with French leaders and the French people throughout the 1770s and 1780s. Because of his actions, France and the USA formed an alliance. When Britain came with their mighty Navy to the American shores, France pulled up right behind them. Together, they forced the British to surrender in 1781. Americans had won their independence by 1783. Without France's alliance, this was just not militarily possible.	
When the American Revolution ended, more countries were effected than just the United States of America. The American Revolutionary War ended with Great Britain signed the "Treaty of Paris" in 1783. This was just one of several treaties Britain signed. Britain signed a treaty with the Spanish, French and Dutch, too. Together, these four treaties are called the "Peace of Paris." Under the Peace of Paris, Britain kept Canada. It also won back the Bahamas, which are islands in the Caribbean. However, Spain took Minorca and Florida from Britain. France took Senegal, in Africa, and Tobago, in the Caribbean. The Dutch also lost land. They gave up a city in India to Britain. The Dutch did get back a city in Sri Lanka from the British.	