

**Informational Writing**  
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**San Ramon Valley Unified School District Professional Development**  
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Four Categories of Informational Writing:

1. *Text Structure - aligned with CCSS Reading Standard 5*

- a. Cause and Effect
- b. Compare and Contrast
- c. Chronological (Procedural in Science)
- d. Pro and Con
- e. Ideas- Details (Boxes and Bullets)
- f. Narrative (Story of Edison inventing)

2. Word Choice/Language

- a. Types of Words - Tier 1, 2, 3 Words
- b. Seven Ways to Explain Unknown Words When Writing
  - i. Embed Definition
  - ii. Add definition in parentheses
  - iii. Partner Sentences - use word and in next sentence give definition
  - iv. Footnote or hyperlink
  - v. Diagram
  - vi. Glossary
  - vii. Jump Back and Spring Forward - hug sentence with unknown word with content clues

3. *Elaboration*

- a. Sentence use compare and contrast structure
- b. Strong vocabulary choice
- c. Analogies
- d. Descriptions
- e. Details
- f. Reasonable similes and metaphors
  - i. Resources to Use - those who show excitement - has energy
    1. [Seymour Simon](#) books
    2. [Ken Burns](#) - documentarian and filmmaker
    3. [Melissa Stuart](#) books
    4. [Albert Marrin](#) books

4. *Evidence and Information - need a variety*

- i. Give facts, stats, references to history, scientific evidence, quotes, personal anecdotes, societal anecdotes, examples

Writing Teach Points

- Each teach point
  - one skill and one strategy
    - one what and one how