



Name: _____ Date: _____

Understanding Text Structures

Directions: Text structure is the way an author organizes information in a piece of writing. Authors use different text structures for different purposes. Common text structures are listed in the boxes on the right. Use the information in these boxes to help you answer the questions below about "Our Beautiful Town Is Gone."

1. What is the main purpose of the article?

Which text structure does the author use overall in the article to achieve this purpose? _____

2. In the opening section, the author describes the town of Paradise. What details does she include to help you picture the town in your mind?

Why do you think the author begins the article this way?

Cause and Effect
explains *why* something happened (cause) and *what* happened as a result (effect).

Description
includes details to help you picture or get to know a person, place, thing, or idea.

Problem and Solution
presents a problem and explains how it is solved.

Compare and Contrast
presents the similarities and/or differences between two things, such as events, time periods, or places.

Sequence of Events
describes events in the order in which they happen. This is also called *chronological order*.

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3. In the section "Bigger and Deadlier," the author explains that climate change is worsening wildfires in California and the American West. On the lines below, write two negative effects climate change is having on wildfires. (You may quote lines from the article or rewrite them in your own words.)

Effect 1: _____

Effect 2: _____

4. In the section "Flaming Birds," the author describes some of the differences between the 2018 wildfire and other wildfires. Which type of text structure is this? Support your answer using examples.

5. In the section "Life Continues," the author uses a problem-and-solution text structure to explain what the people who had lived in Paradise are doing to deal with the loss of their town and their homes. What are some examples of the ways people from Paradise are tackling the problem of having their lives disrupted?

