

# ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERNS

Newspaper articles and other non-fiction text often follow one of the following organizational patterns:

**Compare and Contrast**—articles that take two or more items and discuss how the items are alike and how the items are different.

**Cause and Effect**—articles that focus on the cause(s) of the problem and the long- and short-term effects.

**Problem and Solution**—articles that talk about problems and possible solutions to the problems.

**Chronological Order**—articles that are written sequentially or almost like a time line.

**Descriptive Example**—articles that focus on describing a person, place or event in detail, giving examples and possibly defining key words.

## Directions

Participate in a teacher-led class discussion about the organizational patterns used in today's comic strips. Then, look in the newspaper for examples of each type of pattern. Write the headline of the article for each example in the proper yellow box. Fill in the information in each box to show how the article conforms to the pattern.

## UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT TYPES OF WRITING PATTERNS

### Compare & Contrast

HEADLINE

COMPARE (how alike)

CONTRAST (how different)

### Cause & Effect

HEADLINE

CAUSE

EFFECT

### Problem & Solution

HEADLINE

PROBLEM

SOLUTION

### Chronological Order

HEADLINE

BEGINNING DATE/TIME

ENDING DATE/TIME

### Descriptive Example

HEADLINE

WHAT IS DESCRIBED?

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS

RUBRIC

Self-Check

- I located an article in the newspaper for each of the five types of organizational patterns.
- When I found an article that conformed to a particular organizational pattern, I wrote the headline in the proper pattern box.
- I wrote the information outlined inside each pattern box for the articles chosen.
- I labeled my favorite article with a star.