Sequence and Chronological Order

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**sequence order**: the order in which events should, may, or usually occur; sequence order is used to give directions or to show steps or events in a process.

**chronological order**: organization in order of occurrence, forward in time, usually used to tell stories, to report events, or to record histories.

HERE’S HOW

**Step 1: Look for times, dates, or number words that show order.** Sometimes clue words such as *first, second,* and so on, indicate the sequence of information. In other cases, numerals (1, 2, 3, . . .) or dates and times may give the order of events.

**Step 2: Organize information in a graphic.** Based on any time-order clue words, place the events in a graphic organizer. The organizer can be as simple as a numbered list. Or you can create a left-to-right series of boxes and arrows to track the information.

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**Step 3: Look for words and phrases that show duration or sequence.** Certain signal words and phrases help structure both chronological and sequential texts: *then, next, as soon as, before, after, at the same time, during, after and finally,* and so on.

**Step 4: Infer the author’s purpose.** The author may want to explain how to carry out a task, explain a natural process step by step, or report, retell, or create a story about how events unfolded in time. Ask yourself: Why does the author arrange details in this way? What is he or she trying to achieve?

**How a Boy Became a Knight**

Between 1100 and 1300 in England, the goal of many boys was to become a knight. The first step began at age seven when a boy went to live with a knight or nobleman and work for him as a page. Next, when he had reached age 15 or 16, the page became a squire. At that time he served the knight in battle. The last stage occurred at age 21, when the squire took vows to uphold the code of knighthood.