Using Signal Words

Four purposes of writing are listed below, along with a list of words that writers often use to help their readers understand how their thoughts are organized. Select one purpose and circle it. Then write a paragraph about the topic with that purpose in mind. Use as many of the signal words as needed, underlining each one as you use it.

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| **Description** | **Sequence** | Compare/Contrast | **Cause and Effect** |
| • to begin with• for example• for instance• most importantly• in front• beside• near / far• over / above• opposite from | • first• second• third• before• on (date)• not long after• after that• next• at the same time• finally• then• following• simultaneously | • like• unlike• in contrast• on the other hand• as well as• also• too• however• but | • therefore• so• this leads to • consequently• as a result• because• if … then• due to |
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