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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