Literacy Spotlights

Spotlight Topic	Text Structure and Note-taking
Background Information	As your student gets older, you may notice an increase in the amount of assigned reading they're doing at home, especially in classes like science and social studies, and that oftentimes students are expected to learn content from this reading. Informational texts are typically organized in a predictable structure determined by the content they're describing. Some of the common text structures are compare/contrast, problem/solution, chronological, definition, and classification. If students can recognize the structure of a text, it's easier for them to figure out key information and take notes. This video from Cult of Pedagogy explains text structures and why identifying text structures is helpful for readers.
Standard	**Standard 12:** Read independently and comprehend a variety of texts for the purposes of reading for ...acquiring new learning; reflect and respond to increasingly complex text over time.
Activity	One way to recognize text structures is to look for signal words. Help your student learn signal words by using a list like this chart. Once your student recognizes the structure of an informational text, encourage them to create a graphic organizer for note-taking that fits with that structure. Ideas of what those can look like can be found here.
Resources	When We All Teach Text Structures, Everyone Wins. (n.d.). Retrieved June 22, 2017, from https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/text-structures