



DTR (Define the Relationship)

Duration: 45-50 minutes | **Overview:** Students will learn to identify signal words and use them to understand paragraph relationships in nonfiction texts.

Materials:

- Nonfiction text of your choice
- [NFR “Define the Relationship” anchor chart](#)
- Highlighter/pen/pencil

Steps:

Before the Activity:

1. (Optional) Complete the teacher-version of the DTR strategy [here](#).
2. Identify a text for students to read that relates to your curriculum & share it with students.
3. Review the anchor chart with students, telling them that certain words within a text are signals from the author to the reader about relationships between the text’s ideas.

During the Activity:

1. Before setting students free to work independently, model identifying signal words within the first paragraph(s), reading the paragraph(s), and defining the relationship between ideas.
2. Ask students to scan the reading and highlight/circle signal words as they go.
3. Then, ask students to read the text.
4. Finally, have students use the anchor chart to define the relationships between paragraphs using the signal words as clues.
5. Note: if you are unable to print the reading, you can use a table like this one to track students’ ideas:

Paragraph #	Signal Word	DTR



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After the Activity:

1. Think-Pair-Share
 - a. "Think: What was the most important relationship you discovered?"
 - b. "Pair: Share with someone near you"
 - c. "Share: Let's hear a few examples"
2. Quick Reflection
 - a. How might this activity help your reading comprehension?
 - b. How might you use signal words in your writing to connect your ideas?