

SIGNPOSTS FOR NONFICTION

SIGNPOSTS

DEFINITIONS

Contrasts and Contradictions

A sharp contrast between what we would expect and what we observe happening. A difference between two or more elements in the text.

Extreme and Absolute Language

Language that leaves no doubt about a situation or an event, allows no compromise, or seems to exaggerate or overstate a case.

Numbers and Stats

Specific quantities or comparisons to depict the amount, size, or scale. Or the writer is vague and imprecise about the numbers when we would expect more precision.

Quoted Words

Words that are quoted are quoted for a reason. They might offer evidence or a personal perspective.

Word Gaps

Vocabulary that is unfamiliar to the reader. This might be because it is a word with multiple meanings, a rare or technical word, a discipline-specific word, or one with a far-removed antecedent.