

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.