

SIGNAL WORDS

CAUSE/EFFECT

because
since
consequently
this led to...so
if...then
nevertheless
accordingly
because of
as a result of
in order to
may be due to
yet
for this reason
not only...but
also

COMPARE/CONTRAST

different from
same as
similar to
as opposed to
instead of
although
however
compared with
as well as
either...or
but
on the other hand
unless

DESCRIPTION

for instance
for example
such as
to illustrate
most important
in addition
another
furthermore
first, second...
also
to begin with

PROBLEM/SOLUTION

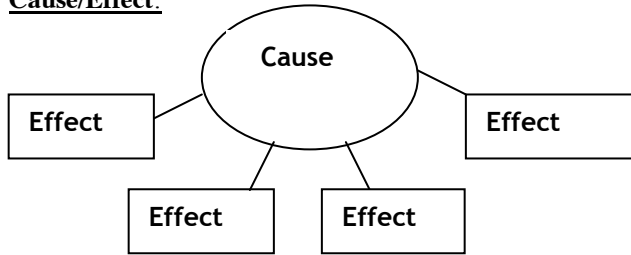
problem
the question is
a solution
one answer is

SEQUENCE/CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

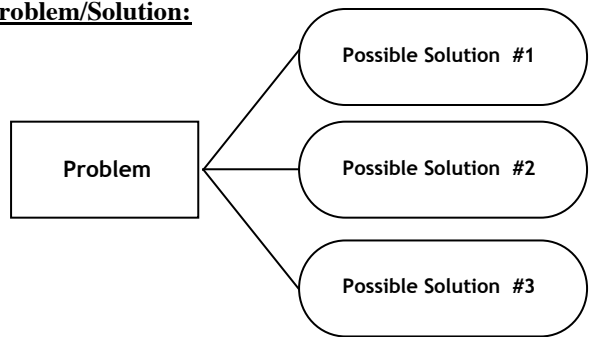
first, second...
not long after
next
then
initially
before
after

Graphic Organizers

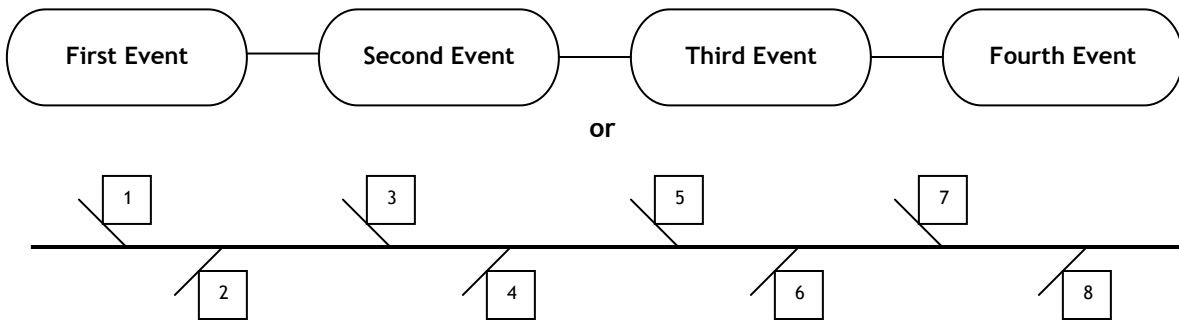
Cause/Effect:



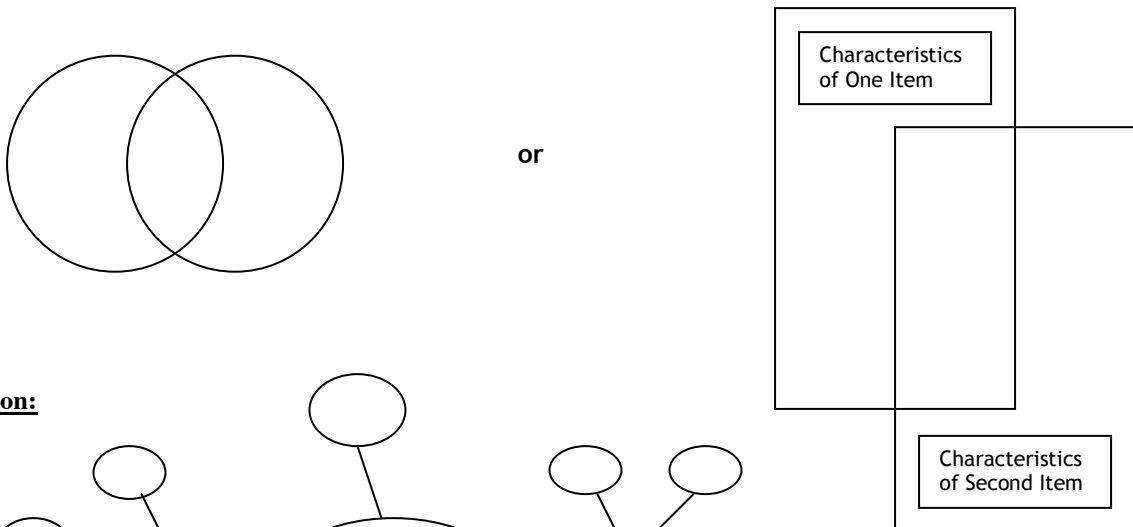
Problem/Solution:



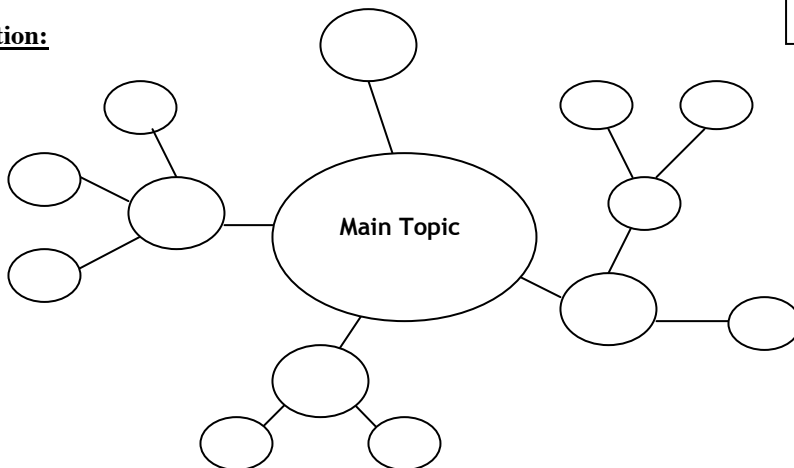
Chronological/Sequence:



Comparison/Contrast:



Description:

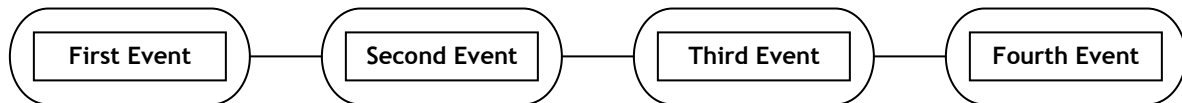


Sequence

Sequence is a form of writing that is used if the author wishes to inform readers about certain topics by presenting this information by listing events or steps in a sequence or in presenting information in chronological order using time. Words that signal this type of text structure are first, next, before, and after. A graphic organizer, such as a flowchart, may be used to sequence events or steps of the information being introduced.

Text Example

During the months from May to September, the Loggerhead turtle comes ashore to nest at night. First the turtle crawls out of the sea to the beach in search of the right place to build a nest for its eggs. Once the location is identified, the turtle digs a hole with its flippers that measures 8" wide and 18" deep. Next, the turtle lays around 120 eggs the size of ping-pong balls. The turtle then covers the nest by throwing sand over the nest with its flippers. The turtle does this to protect the eggs from predators. Finally, the turtle makes its way back to the sea, and does not return to attend to the nest.

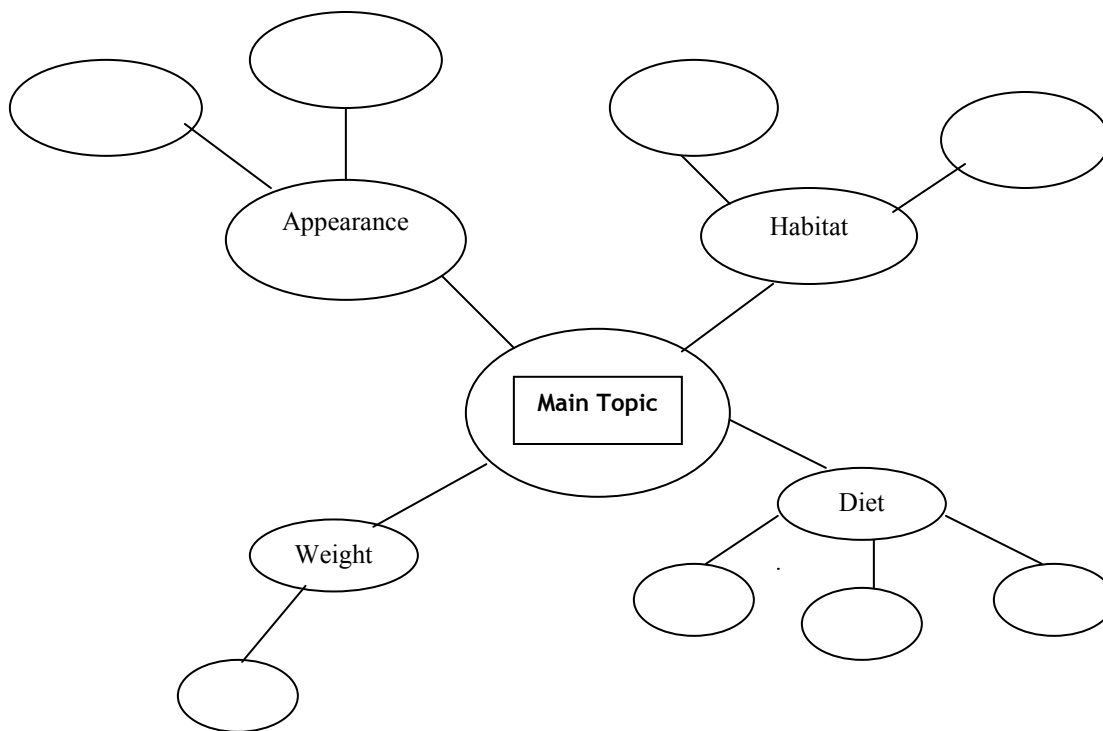


Description

Description is a form of writing that is used to describe the attributes and features of people, places, or items. Usually in descriptive writing, the main topic is introduced and then the attributes are included in the body of the paragraph. Words that signal this type of text structure are for example, first, second, and most importantly. A graphic organizer, such as the Semantic Web, may be used to map the individual characteristics or traits of the topic being introduced.

Text Example

The Loggerhead is a relatively easy turtle to identify. To begin with, the Loggerhead has a reddish-brown upper shell and a dull brown to yellowish lower shell. The shells consist of an upper part, known as the carapace, and a lower section, called the plastron. Hard scales (or scutes) cover the shells, and the number and arrangement of these scutes are used to determine the species. The adult Loggerhead weights from 200 to 350 pounds and lives in temperate and subtropical waters. Another important fact about this turtle is it is the most common sea turtle that nests on the shores of the United States. In addition to eating small fish, the Loggerhead sea turtle feasts on shellfish, clams, horseshoe crabs, and mussels. Unfortunately, the Loggerhead turtle is classified as threatened.

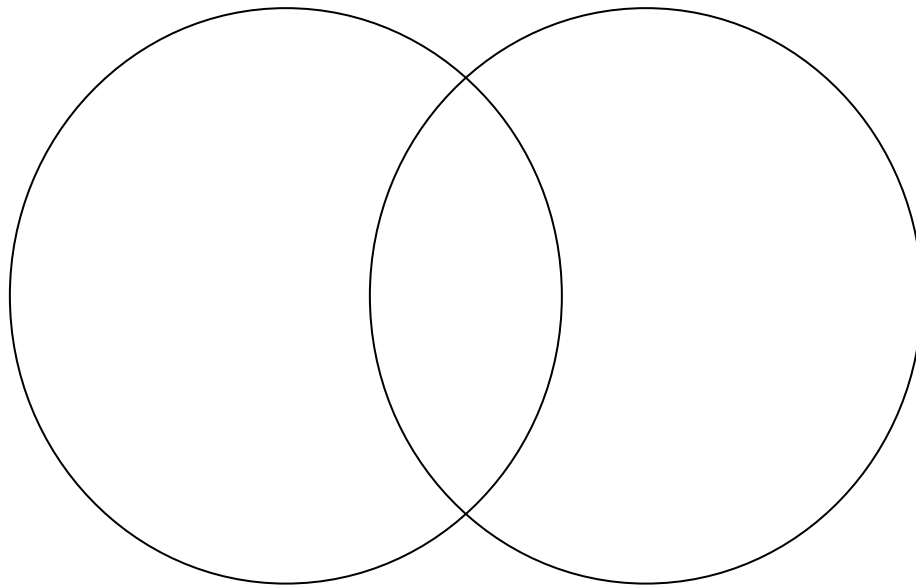


Comparison/Contrast

Comparison/Contrast text shows how two or more people, places, or things are alike or different. Authors use descriptions of the items being compared to illustrate the differences or the similarities of the items being compared. Words that signal this type of text structure are but, however, although, yet, similarly, on the other hand, while, and for instance. A graphic organizer, such as a Venn Diagram, may be used to depict the similarities and differences in facts, events, items, or concepts.

Text Example

The Green sea turtle and the loggerhead sea turtle nest along the Atlantic and the Pacific shores in the United States. The Green sea turtle is on the endangered list while the Loggerhead is listed as threatened. The Green sea turtle eats grass, algae and other vegetation and is classified as herbivorous. Unlike the Green sea turtle, the Loggerhead turtle is classified as carnivorous, and eats horseshoe crabs, clams, and mussels. Both sea turtles live in temperate and subtropical waters and tend to stay near the coastline.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

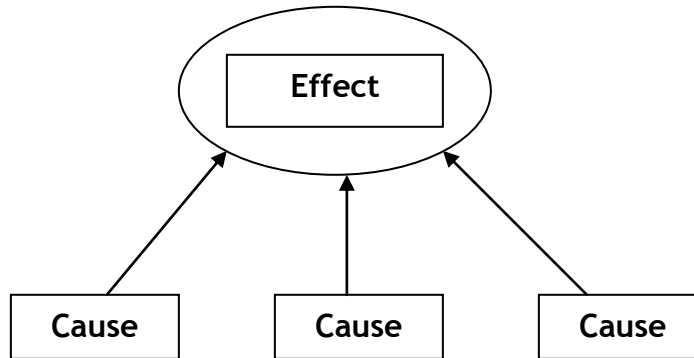
Green Sea Turtle

Cause/Effect

Cause/Effect is used to show how the facts, events, or concepts result due to other facts, events or concepts. Words that signal this type of text structure are because, since, therefore, if...then, as a result of, thus, and hence. A graphic organizer may be used to represent the relationship between the causes and effects.

Text Example

Natural predators such as snakes, sea gulls, and raccoons are considered threats to the sea turtles, but human beings are considered to pose the greatest threat to the sea turtles. People threaten the turtles if they disturb the nesting sites or harm the sea turtles at sea. Because of these dangers, the Loggerhead sea turtle is considered threatened.

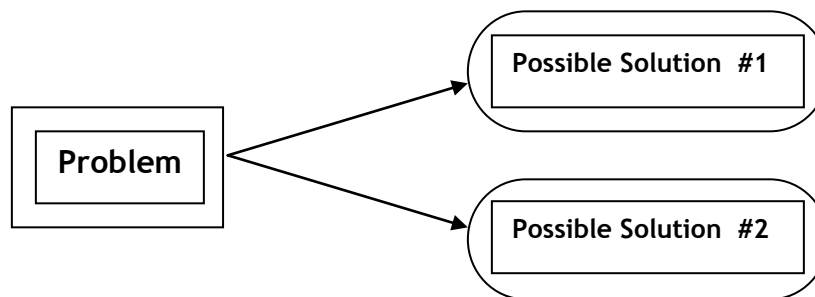


Problem/Solution

Problem/Solution is used to present a problem and the possible solutions to this problem. Words that signal this type of text structure are the question is, the problem is, therefore, and if...then. A graphic organizer may be used to represent the problem and its possible solutions.

Text Example

The Loggerhead sea turtle is threatened. Conservationists are attempting to help the survival rate of the Loggerhead turtles. Their solution is to educate the public about the nesting habits of the sea turtles and help pass gill netting regulations for fishermen.



Text Example:

The Olympic games began as athletic festivals to honor the Greek gods. The most important festival was held in the valley of Olympia to honor Zeus, the king of the gods. It was this festival that became the Olympic games in 776 B.C. These games were ended in A.D. 394 by the Roman Emperor who ruled Greece. No Olympic games were held for more than 1,500 years. Then the modern Olympics began in 1896. Almost 300 male athletes competed in the first modern Olympics. In the games held in 1900, female athletes were allowed to compete. The games have continued every four years since 1896 except during World War II, and they will most likely continue for many years to come.

Identified Text Structure: _____

Signal Words: _____

Create A Graphic Organizer

Summary

Text Example:

The Olympic symbol consists of five interlocking rings. In fact, the rings represent five of the seven continents. Continents such as Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America send athletes to compete in the games. The symbol is considered quite colorful and includes the colors black, blue, green, red, and yellow. At least one of these colors is found in the flag of every country sending athletes to compete in the Olympic games.

Identified Text Structure: _____

Signal Words: _____

Create A Graphic Organizer

Summary

Text Example:

One problem with the modern Olympics is that it has become very big and expensive to operate. The city or country that hosts the games often loses a lot of money. A stadium, pools, and playing fields must be built for the athletic events and housing is needed for the athletes who come from around the world, and all of these facilities are used for only 2 weeks! In 1984, Los Angeles solved these problems by charging a fee for companies who wanted to be official sponsors of the games. Companies, like McDonald's, paid a lot of money to be part of the Olympics. Buildings that were already built in the Los Angeles area were also used. The Coliseum where the 1932 games were held was used again and many colleges and universities in the area became playing and living sites.

Identified Text Structure: _____

Signal Words: _____

Create A Graphic Organizer

Summary

Text Example:

The modern Olympics is very unlike the ancient Olympic games. Individual events are different. While there were no swimming races in the ancient games, for example, there were chariot races. There were no female contestants and all athletes competed in the nude. Of course, the ancient and modern Olympics are also alike in many ways. Some events, such as the javelin and discus throws, are the same. Some people say that cheating, professionalism, and nationalism in the modern games are a disgrace to the Olympic tradition. But according to the ancient Greek writers, there were many cases of cheating, nationalism, and professionalism in their Olympics too.

Identified Text Structure: _____

Signal Words: _____

Create A Graphic Organizer

Summary

Text Example:

There are several reasons why so many people attend the Olympic games or watch them on television. One reason is tradition. The name Olympics and the torch and flame remind people of the ancient games. People can escape the ordinariness of daily life by attending or watching the Olympics. They like to identify with someone else's individual sacrifice and accomplishment. National pride is another reason, and an athlete's or a team's hard earned victory becomes a nation's victory. There are national medal counts and people keep track of how many medals their country's athletes have won.

Identified Text Structure: _____

Signal Words: _____

Create A Graphic Organizer

Summary

From Arrest to Sentencing

A police officer must have probable cause to arrest a suspect. All arrested suspects are entitled to due process and must be informed of their rights before they are questioned. After the arrest, the suspect is taken to the police station for booking. That is, a record of the arrest is made. The suspect is fingerprinted and photographed at this time.

Usually within the next twenty-four hours, a preliminary hearing is held. During this procedure a judge must determine if there is enough evidence to send the case to trial. If there is not, the judge may dismiss or drop the charges. If there is, the judge must decide whether or not to set bail.

Next, a formal charge must be made. In some states a grand jury hears the evidence to decide whether to send the case to trial. If the grand jury finds probable cause, the suspect is indicted or charged formally with the crime.

Following the indictment, the accused person then appears before the judge to be arraigned. This means the accused person enters a plea of guilty or not guilty in terms of the charges. If the person pleads guilty, no trial is necessary.

If the accused person pleads not guilty to the charge, the case goes to trial. The defense represents the accused person's side of the case. The government's side of the case is presented by the prosecution. The defense and prosecution lawyers choose the jurors for the trial from a large group of people.

After the jury has been selected, the prosecutor and the defense lawyer make opening statements. Each lawyer outlines the facts he or she will try to prove. First, the prosecutor presents the case against the defendant. Witnesses are sworn in, questioned, and then cross-examined. Next, the defense presents its case. The defendant may choose whether to testify, but cannot be forced to testify against himself or herself. After all the evidence is presented by each side, each lawyer makes a closing statement.

Before the jury leaves the court room to reach a verdict, the judge gives them final instructions. The defendant is always presumed innocent. It is the prosecution's job to prove the accused person is guilty beyond reasonable doubt. If there is reasonable doubt of guilt, the jury must acquit the defendant. This means the defendant is found not guilty.

If the defendant is found guilty, the judge decides the punishment or sentence. Usually the law sets a minimum and maximum penalty for each type of crime. Following sentencing, the individual is taken into custody and begins serving the sentence.

Paying for Government

Each year the local, state, and federal governments spend huge amounts of money. Local governments, for example, provide the American people with police and firefighters. Additionally, public health programs and schools are paid for largely by local governments. Furthermore, local governments provide paved streets, sewers, trash removal, parks, playgrounds, and many other services.

State governments provide highways and state police. They provide help to public schools and to people who have lost their jobs. State governments also provide funds to people who cannot afford food or housing.

The federal government provides for the nation's defense. It helps business, labor, and agriculture. Providing agencies to protect the public's health is another expense. Other examples include helping with highway construction and serving citizens in a wide variety of ways. The largest cost to the federal government is in benefits to individuals – people who are retired, elderly, disabled, or needy.

Another large cost is spent by the government on national defense. Finally, the national debt plays a large role in the high cost of government as interest must be paid on money borrowed. These are examples of how government spends money. Now, we will explore how the government raises money to pay for such services.

Two Peoples Divided by Common Road Signs – Norman Berdichevsky

As an American in Britain, it is my firm belief that the confusion stemming from the two different road systems and their portrayal on maps is the single most irritating factor causing frustration, anger and a shrug of the shoulders accompanied by mutterings of ...those crazy Brits (Americans).”

Squares versus Circles

It is not, as many might believe, the Left versus Right hand side of the road conundrum which is the source of the most awful aggravation, and cursing (swearing), but rather the totally opposing circulatory systems. Americans are “squares”—a condition which stems from the geometric lay-out based on the cardinal directions of the compass and lines of latitude and longitude on which North America was shaped (French Canada and Louisiana being the exceptions). The American systems of grids and rectangles stand in sharp contrast to the devious British who move in gyratory arcs, curves, and circles frequently interrupted by dead ends leading nowhere. Put in simpler terms, this simply means that almost anywhere in North America, a motorist can, even without a map, make three consecutive right (or even left) turns and come back to where he started. In Britain, there is practically no chance of returning to one’s starting point.

Roundabouts versus Grids

During many years of driving in the United States, I have encountered one roundabout. Along a stretch of a few miles of road in the United Kingdom, I have often encountered a dozen or more roundabouts. This means that the chances of taking a wrong road in the UK as compared to the US are on the order of 12:1. In America, it would be difficult to make an unwanted U-turn and go back on the same road but in the opposite direction, whereas this has frequently happened to me in the UK after driving round a roundabout and exiting by the same road I entered it.

Traveling within a city also presents a nightmare of what Americans consider gross violations of the most elementary “rules of thumb” for finding an address. The American grid systems with few exceptions apply in cities everywhere and not just Manhattan so that a newcomer can easily orient himself in terms of numbered streets and lettered avenues. Washington D.C. is an “exotic” variation on this theme due to its diagonally trending avenues and pentagonal street pattern. In Britain however, roads have names, which often change along commercial stretches and then return to their original name. This often results in Americans being convinced that they have already made a wrong turn somewhere along the line. Odd and even numbers, which are always on the opposite sides of the street and close in numerical order in the US may be neither in British cities.

Street Names

Road signs with street names are often absent from major thoroughfares in British cities although every minor abutting street is prominently named. To add to the confusion, it is common practice for many streets to bear the same patronymic, but be distinguished by a confusion of appendages, i.e. Wallace Road, Wallace Avenue, Wallace Crescent, Wallace Close, Wallace Parade, Wallace Gardens, etc. Even more absurd is the existence of a dozen or more streets in the same city with exactly the same name! The most recent edition of the famous London *A to Z* Street Atlas contains sixteen Essex Roads, thirteen Durham Roads, etc. in widely different parts of the city. One of the most helpful items for an American motorist to obtain is a map of London’s postal zones (not obtainable in Post Offices). These practices have convinced me and other Americans that the British must have devised all this to intentionally thwart a German invasion in 1940 and then forgot to restore helpful information.

Oil Spills

Oil spills are hazardous to the environment and can be dangerous or deadly to affected people and animals. There are a number of factors which can lead to oil spills, and many occur during the transport of oil across waterways such as oceans.

Oil is commonly transported by barges, tankers, pipelines, and trucks, each of which has its own imperfections that can lead to an oil accident. Tankers and barges can crash or run into unexpected land consequently creating a crack or hole, which allows oil to escape. Likewise, pipelines which transport oil underground can develop leaks or cracks thus allowing oil to seep into the environment. Oil shipping trucks can also instigate an oil spill in the event of an accident. Some oil can escape while it is being moved from one vessel to another, a process called lightering. Additionally, oil spills may be due to uncontrollable factors such as hurricanes and other violent weather which can cause tankers or barges to wreck or can damage offshore drilling facilities.

Oil spills can occur during other phases of production, such as when oil is being extracted from an oil well or being converted into other products at a refinery. These spills are often a result of human mistakes as well as equipment failure. Sometimes oil is even spilled intentionally as an act of war or vandalism. Illegal dumping of oil is another deliberate act that causes harm to the environment.

Since importing and exporting oil is a major mechanism of world trade, oil spills often happen in the ocean during long international commutes. The degree of effort involved in cleaning up an oil spill depends on the quantity of oil that is spilled, the type of oil, the cooperation of the weather in clean-up efforts as well as the location of the spill. Lighter oils, such as gasoline, have a tendency to evaporate into the air and are therefore generally easier to clean up. A spill in the ocean is often relatively easier to clean up than a spill in a smaller lake, though cleaning any spill is a complicated undertaking.

When oil is spilled into the ocean, the movement of the waves causes some of the oil to emulsify in the water. Some of the mixture sinks to the bottom of the ocean where it sticks to rocks and sand. Some of the spilled oil is consumed by microorganisms in the water, and some is broken down by the sun. Still, some of the spilled oil is transported by the current onto land, affecting the sand, rocks, grass, and trees.

Oil spill prevention and cleanup procedures are monitored by organizations such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Coast Guard. Such organizations enact policies aimed at preventing spills, training for oil clean up and making companies accountable for accidents.

Debt

Many people suffer under accumulating debts that remain unpaid either due to a lack of funds or unwise planning. Those in need can easily find the help and assistance that is required to get out from under the burdens of mounting frustrations.

Thousands of people become too dependent on credit cards and other forms of easy charge. Those who do not keep track of spending can find themselves in a financial dilemma. One of the best solutions is to take the necessary steps to avoid ever requiring a debt problem solution. Many forms of financial materials and tools can be found that assist individuals in how to manage personal finances. Financial experts encourage people to keep an eye on accounts and assets in order to avoid over spending. Too often people spend more than what they receive in a regular pay period, which can lead to the problem of insufficient funds when bills arrive, and therefore debts ensue. Those who are aware of accounts have a much better chance of avoiding such problems.

Occasionally, circumstances arise that are beyond an individual's control, such as the lost of a job, unexpected health problems, automobile costs, and so on. In such extreme circumstances, the act of taking out a loan might be unavoidable in order to pay the bills. Hundreds of people take out a mortgage on a home so that they can eventually own their own home, and loans are also taken out to enable people to purchase an automobile of choice, home repair costs, or desired vacations. Whatever the reasons, debts can begin to pile up as creditors begin to charge on agreements, and a person must pay up in order to avoid violating the terms of an agreement. This can be difficult for some as the money required simply is not available, and a debt problem solution is required.

Many banks, lending agencies and financial institutions can easily be contacted either via telephone or through a web site. Most businesses can be easily accessed by use of a personal computer and a connection to the Internet and offer many a debt problem solution. Hundreds of financial sites can easily be found that offer copious amounts of information, materials, tips, and advice that all be helpful to an individual in need. Those who require assistance can apply for a free assessment or easily get in touch with an actual financial advisor and have a personal evaluation.

Debt problem solutions come in many different forms that range from refinancing to consolidation. People in need of assistance ought consider seeking help before the choice is made to take extreme actions. The act of filing for bankruptcy can leave a bad mark on a person's credit history that can prove to be very difficult to erase. Bankruptcy as a solution to debt problems can and should be avoided at any cost. Financial advisors and accountants can assist clients in the formulation of plans that will help to assuage some of the pressure and can lead serious debt reductions. Several tools such as debt reduction and time calculators can be implemented. Simple calculations can give people an idea on how much is required and the time in which the money needs to be paid. Plans for achieving the goals are based on the results, and provide a possible answer to the much-desired relief.

People who are serious about enacting a debt problem solution need to be committed to the procedure and remain focused throughout the duration. Relief from the stresses of being unable to make ends meet can be alleviated when people are aware of what is required and pay attention to various factors that can effect financial situations. Wise planning and smart choices are vital for financial success. Almost everyone will experience the struggles that ensue with overhanging debts at some point in life. Those who find themselves so burdened should rest assured that there are ways in which help can be gained. Whatever a person's situation, a debt problem solution can be found with a little determination and planning.

All Eyes on Mars - Jeffery Kluger

It turns out that Mars does not have a population of little green aliens. Those Martians live only in books and movies. Still, the planet is humming with activity. Right now, six nosy little vehicles are rolling, digging and taking pictures all over Mars's surface, or whirring around in orbit high above. They explore the Martian soil to get clues about the planet's past. The big question: Was there ever life on the Red Planet?

The search for life is a search for water. On September 29, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced big news. A laser instrument aboard the Phoenix, a craft near Mars's north pole, had spotted snow falling through the planet's frigid sky. Martian snowfall isn't like earthly snowfall. It fell from 2.4 miles up and appeared to vaporize before it reached the surface. Still, Phoenix's observations help us see Mars as a world with weather. The planet gets occasional flurries and strong winds. Clouds and fog form at night.

Two sturdy Martian rovers have also been busy. Since landing in early 2004, the golf-cart-size Spirit and Opportunity have been on a roll. They dip into craters, drill into rocks and send back data about what Mars is made of, and about its watery past. After years on the job, Opportunity's robotic arm has stiffened. Controllers can no longer fully fold it up. Spirit has a broken front wheel, so it must drive backward! But breakdowns can have unexpected benefits. In May 2007, scientists announced the discovery of white silica beneath the Martian soil. Silica is a mineral that usually forms in the presence of water. It is one more bit of proof that Mars was once a wet place, but the silica would never have been found if Spirit's broken wheel hadn't dug a trench in the soil.

Also in September, NASA announced that Opportunity would wander farther than ever. The rover is starting a trip to a crater roughly seven miles away. That's about the total amount of ground it has covered so far. At most, Opportunity can travel about 110 yards per day. This trip will take two years! The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter will guide the journey from above.

More ships are on the way. In 2009, NASA hopes to launch a larger rover: the Mars Science Laboratory. Another NASA orbiter craft is scheduled to take off in 2013. The European Space Agency hopes to launch a rover in 2013. A robotic mission to gather rocks and return them to Earth is a key NASA objective.

Will NASA ever send an astronaut to Mars? It is an exciting goal, but until that time, our robot agents will have to do the exploring for us. So far, they are doing one amazing job.

Tips for Success

Scaffold Instruction

Explicit Instruction

- **Model**
- **Guided practice**
- **Independent practice**
- **Application**

Content Scaffold:

- **Chronological/sequence**
- **Description**
- **Compare/contrast**
- **Cause/effect**
- **Problem/solution**

Material Scaffold:

- **Picture books**
- **Paragraph**
- **Articles (Pure Text)**
- **Textbook/Multiple Text**