

# TEXT STRUCTURE *Task Cards*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

- descriptive
- compare and contrast
- problem and solution
- cause and effect
- sequence or chronology

**Directions:** Read each text structure task card. Determine what type of text structure the author used to present their information. Write the type of text structure in the answer box. See the different types of text structure to the left. Look for signal words to help you!

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
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# TEXT STRUCTURE *Task Cards*

## Answer Key

Task Card Title	Answer	Task Card Title	Answer
1. Photosynthesis	Sequence	19. Magnetism & Electricity	Compare & Contrast
2. Rust	Cause & Effect	20. Bees	Problem & Solution
3. Changing States	Cause & Effect	21. Matter	Descriptive
4. Metamorphosis	Sequence	22. Acid Rain	Cause & Effect
5. Amphibians	Descriptive	23. Water Cycle	Sequence
6. Herbivores & Carnivores	Compare and Contrast	24. Volcanoes	Cause & Effect
7. Electromagnet	Sequence	25. Phases of Moon	Sequence
8. Hemingway's Cats	Cause & Effect	26. Endangered Species	Problem & Solution
9. Magnetic Field	Descriptive	27. Clouds	Descriptive
10. Pollution	Problem & Solution	28. Light & Sound Energy	Compare & Contrast
11. Types of Rocks	Compare & Contrast	29. Earth's Rotation	Sequence
12. Litter	Problem & Solution	30. Force and Motion	Cause & Effect
13. Build a Compost	Sequence	31. Layers of Atmosphere	Descriptive
14. Fresh Water	Descriptive	32. Weather Climate	Compare & Contrast
15. Landfill	Problem & Solution	33. Hurricanes	Cause and Effect
16. Ocean Water	Descriptive	34. Technology	Problem & Solution
17. Protecting Wildlife	Problem & Solution	35. Heat Energy	Cause & Effect
18. Conductors & Insulators	Compare & Contrast	36. Instinctive vs. Learned Behavior	Compare & Contrast

# 1 Photosynthesis

**Photosynthesis** is a process that plants use to make food. Chlorophyll from the plant captures energy from sunlight. The plant's roots take in water from the soil. Then, the water travels to the plant's leaves, which take carbon dioxide from the air. Finally, the chloroplasts use the sun's energy to combine water and carbon dioxide, which makes the plant's food- glucose!

# 2 Rust

A **chemical change** is when one substance changes into a completely new substance. Rust is one example of a chemical change. If an iron nail is left outside and it rains, then it will rust. The iron combines with oxygen in the air to form rust. As a result, the nail is not *just* made of iron any more, it is a new substance made of iron and oxygen.

# 3 Changing States

Matter comes in three states-solid, liquid, or gas. Matter can change states if you add or remove heat energy. Heat can cause ice (a solid) to melt into water (a liquid). If water is heated, this will result in a gas called water vapor. The addition or subtraction of heat leads to a change of state in matter.

# 4 Metamorphosis

Butterflies and some other insects go through changes at each stage of their life cycle. The first stage of **complete metamorphosis** is the egg. Then, the egg hatches into a larva, which is a small wormlike caterpillar. As the caterpillar continues to eat leaves, it grows larger and larger. In the third stage (pupa), a chrysalis forms around the caterpillar. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar changes and forms new body parts. Finally, a butterfly emerges and spreads its wings!

## 5 Amphibians

Frogs, toads, and salamanders are all **amphibians**. An **amphibian** is an animal that lives part of its life in the water and part of its life on land. The young, such as tadpoles, live in water. As they grow up, they live on land. Amphibians are vertebrates, which means they have a backbone. They also have moist and permeable, or breathable, skin. They lay jellylike eggs with no shells.

## 6 Herbivores & Carnivores

Scientists classify consumers based on what they eat. **Consumers** are organisms that get energy by eating other organisms. Both **herbivores** and **carnivores** are considered consumers. However, herbivores eat only plants and plant products while carnivores eat other animals. Both groups of animals need energy to live.

## 7 How to Make an Electromagnet

An **electromagnet** is a temporary magnet that can be turned on and off. You can make an electromagnet to see how this works. First, coil a wire around an iron bar. Second, attach the ends of the wire to the poles of a battery. An electric current will begin to flow through the wire. The electric current has now made the iron bar a magnet! You can turn your electromagnet off by disconnecting the wire from the battery and stopping the flow of the electric current.

## 8 Hemingway's Cats

Animals **inherit** genes from their parents. In Key West, Florida, Ernest Hemingway's cats still live in his house long after his death. The famous writer left his house to his cats and their descendants. The cats and their offspring, or children, are known for having an extra toe. This trait is known as **polydactylism**. The cats have inherited this dominant gene from at least one parent. This causes the cats to have six, seven, or eight toes on their paws instead of only five.

## 9 Magnetic Field

A magnetic field is the area around a magnet where the force of magnetism can be felt. The magnetic field is invisible, but you can observe how it affects objects. Some diagrams of a magnetic fields show a pattern of lines form a pattern around the magnetic field where they bunch closer to the magnet's poles. The magnetic field is strongest near the poles or ends of the magnet.

## 10 Pollution

Anything that can harm the environment, living things, or damage natural resources is considered to be pollution. Natural disasters such as forest fires and volcanoes can cause pollution, but most pollution is caused by humans. About 220 million tons of garbage is thrown away each year. One simple way we can help protect our natural resources is by recycling materials such as paper and plastic.

## 11 Types of Rocks

There are three main types of rocks: **igneous**, **sedimentary**, and **metamorphic**. How can you tell the difference between each type? Igneous and metamorphic rocks can look similar. Some igneous rocks have small holes made by gas bubbles. Sedimentary rocks have flat layers and are usually softer than metamorphic or igneous. Sedimentary rocks are made of sediment cemented together and can sometimes contain fossils.

## 12 Litter

One common type of pollution that people can help prevent is litter. Litter is garbage that people throw on the ground in public places. Many people leave trash on the ground inside public parks, sidewalks, and beaches. Litter is not pretty and smells bad. Litter is garbage and attracts rats, cockroaches, and flies. These organisms can often carry or cause diseases. Litter is not healthy. People can prevent and help this problem by remembering to pick up after themselves and throw trash away. Sometimes we even have to pick up after other people to protect our environment and conserve natural resources.



## 13 Build a Compost

A compost is a mixture of soil and decayed material that provides nutrients for plants. You can build a compost pile by using materials your family would normally throw away. First, spread a layer of brown materials such as fall leaves, straw, or dead flowers from your garden. Second, spread a layer of green materials such as grass clippings, fruit, or vegetable peelings. Next, add a thin layer of soil. Then, add another layer of brown materials. Moisten the three layers by adding water. Continue layering the green and brown materials. Use a garden fork or shovel to turn the pile, working the materials on the inside to the outside. At first, when you turn the pile, you might notice steam rising. This is a good sign! The materials are **decomposing**.

## 14 Fresh Water

Any water that is not found in the sea and has a low salt concentration is considered **fresh water**. Fresh water is found in ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, swamps, and marshes. Ponds and lakes are bodies of still fresh water. Streams are narrow bodies of flowing water that typically flow into larger bodies of water like rivers and lakes. Rivers are wide bodies of slow moving water that flow into the ocean. Swamps and marshes are shallow. They can be still or slow-moving. All bodies of fresh water are habitats to many plants and animals.

## 15 Landfills

Landfills are a place where garbage is dumped. Sanitary landfills are built to keep garbage from harming the environment. The landfill starts as a hole in the ground. It is lined in plastic and pipes are installed to help with ventilation. Garbage is dumped into one area of the hole and bulldozers spread the garbage around. They cover the landfill with soil. Even though landfills are a safe way to get rid of garbage, there is one problem. Cities and towns around the country continue to grow. People use more land and develop areas by building houses, stores, and other buildings. As people use more land, there is less land to use for landfills. This means that there are less places for people to put their garbage. One way we can help this problem is by using less waste and reducing our amount of garbage.

## 16 Ocean Water

Ninety-seven percent of Earth's water is ocean water. Almost three fourths of Earth's surface is covered by **ocean water**. Ocean water is called salt water because it contains dissolved salts mostly in the form of sodium chloride. The temperature of the ocean is highest near the surface because it is closest to the Sun. As you go deeper into the ocean, the temperature drops. Sunlight reaches only about 100 meters deep into the ocean. There are five oceans in the world: Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, Arctic, and Antarctic.

# 17

## Protecting Wildlife

Thousands of species are in danger of becoming extinct caused by human activities. Some species are endangered because too many of the animals are killed for fur or food. Hunting, overfishing, pollution, and loss of habitat are the main ways animals become endangered. Laws are one way that people try to protect animals.

# 18

## Conductors & Insulators

Materials that allow heat energy to pass through them easily are called **conductors**. Iron, copper, and aluminum are examples of conductors. Pots and pans are made of metals so that heat can pass easily through them to cook food.

Unlike conductors, **insulators** are materials that do not allow heat energy to move through them easily. This is why the *handles* of pots and pans are made of wood or plastic. These materials do not allow heat to pass through easily. That's the kind of material you want to actually touch when you are cooking.

# 19

## Magnetism & Electricity

**Electricity** is a form of energy that is produced when electrons move from one place to another. **Magnetism** is a force that pulls magnetic materials across a distance. They are both caused by charged particles called electrons. Electricity and magnetism are related to one another because you can use one to produce the other. Both electricity and magnetism are used to make objects move and generate power.

# 20

## Bees

Bees are **pollinators**, which means they carry pollen to flowering plants.

For the past 20 years, the number of wild bees has been decreasing rapidly because of disease, chemicals, the loss of their homes, and climate changes. General Mills, the company that produces Cheerios, have come to aid the bees by building awareness and even sending out packets of seeds to plant more flowers. Most flowers depend on bees for **pollination**. Flowers also provide a habitat for bees. Planting flowers is one simple thing people can do to save the bee population.



## 21 Properties of Matter

Matter is the material everything is made of. Scientists describe matter by its **properties**, or characteristics of a substance. A physical property can be observed, measured, or changed without changing the substance itself. Some examples of properties are color, texture, odor, mass, volume, and density. Physical properties of matter can change without changing the substance itself. |

## 22

## Acid Rain

**Acid rain** is rain that contains unhealthy amounts of acid. An acid is a chemical substance that can dissolve metals, stone, or cement. They can also burn your skin, eyes, and the lining of your nose, throat, and lungs. Acid rain can form as a result of gases from cars, factories, and power plants. The gases from these sources combine with water in the air and form acid. Rain carries the acid, which can have damaging effects. Acid rain can harm living things, stunt the growth of trees, and poison ponds and lakes. Other results of acid rain include damage to buildings, bridges, and monuments, such as the Statue of Liberty.

## 23 The Water Cycle

The **water cycle** is the process in which water changes from one state to another as it moves between Earth's surface and the atmosphere. The Sun's energy drives the changes and movements of water. Imagine a puddle of water on the ground. First, heat from the Sun causes the water to evaporate. The water becomes water vapor and is now a gas. Then, water vapor in the atmosphere condenses into tiny water droplets. The droplets begin to form clouds. When the clouds become too heavy, they fall to Earth's surface as rain, snow, hail, or sleet. This is called precipitation. Now the puddle is back where it started - a liquid! But not for long because the water cycle is a continuous process.

## 24

## Volcanoes

Some landforms can cause changes to Earth's surface to happen very quickly. A volcano is a mountain built up from hardened lava, rocks, and ash that erupted out of Earth. The melted rock below Earth's surface is called magma. As magma heats and expands it pushes in all directions and rises to Earth's surface where the crust is weakest. This can result in a volcanic eruption in which hot boulders, ash, gases, and cinders can shoot into the air.

# 25

## Moon Phases

The changes in how the moon looks to people on Earth are called the **moon's phases**. As the moon rotates on its axis and revolves around the moon, the phases will change and follow the same sequence. The first phase is **New Moon**, in which the moon is not visible. The second phase is the **Waxing Crescent** in which the moon appears to be a crescent. Next, one half of the moon appears to be illuminated by sunlight. This is **First Quarter**. The next phase is **Waxing Gibbous**, when the moon appears to be more than one half lit. When the moon looks like a full circle, it is called a **Full Moon**. After that comes the **Waning Gibbous**, in which the moon appears to be more than one-half fully lit. The **Last Quarter** is when one half of the moon is lit. The **Waning Crescent** again looks like a crescent on the other side. After the waxing crescent, the cycle starts all over again with the New Moon. This will begin a repetition of the complete cycle all over again. The cycle lasts about 29.5 days.

# 26

## Endangered Species

**Endangered species** are a species that could become extinct very soon if not helped by people. Many countries around the world have passed laws to protect species from extinction. Countries have also created wildlife preserves, sanctuaries, or refuges. In these protected areas, people are not allowed to hunt, farm, or any other activities that would disturb the protected animals.

# 27

## Clouds

A cloud forms when water vapor in the atmosphere condenses. Tiny droplets of liquid water form and clump together, creating a cloud. There are three words that scientists use to describe clouds. **Cirrus** means feathery or tufted. **Stratus** means sheets or layers. **Cumulus** means piled up. Scientists use these words to describe what a cloud looks like.

# 28

## Light and Sound Energy

Light and sound energy are two types of energy that travel from one place to another. Both light and sound energy travel in waves. However, their waves travel in different ways at different speeds. Light travels from a source outward in all directions. Sound is caused by vibrations which also travel outward in all directions. We use our eyes to detect light energy and our ears to detect sound energy. Often, we may see things that produce both sound and light energy such as fireworks or even your television.

# 29

## Earth's Rotation

Earth's **rotation** is the spinning of the Earth on its axis. Earth rotates once every 24 hours. The spinning on Earth's axis causes day and night. As the Earth rotates, one side of the Earth faces the sun. Each morning when the Sun appears to rise, the Earth is rotating to face the Sun. As Earth continues to rotate, the day will get brighter. Eventually, our part of the Earth will turn away from the Sun and the sunlight will begin to fade until this part of the Earth is facing away from the Sun and we experience night time. This process continues every 24 hours, day and night.

# 30

## Force & Motion

A **force** is any push or pull. **Motion** is the change in position of any object. A force can cause an object to start moving, stop moving, or change direction. For example, if you kick a soccer ball it is a push. The push causes the soccer ball to move. This is a motion. If you open a door, you might pull the handle. As a result the door will open.

# 31

## Layers of Atmosphere

There are five layers of Earth's atmosphere. Each layer has different properties. The air heats and cools, moving into and out of different layers. The lowest layer of the atmosphere is the **troposphere**, which stretches from 0 km to 16 km. The air pressure is highest in this layer and the temperature goes down as altitude increases. The next layer is the **stratosphere**. This is where planes and jets may fly. Further up lies the **mesosphere** where meteors or shooting stars burn. The **thermosphere** has air pressure lower than the mesosphere and shimmering curtains of light called auroras can happen. The top layer is called the **exosphere**. This where many satellites orbit and the air pressure is lowest.

# 32

## Weather & Climate

Weather is the condition of the atmosphere in a certain place at a certain time. Weather is a measure of temperature, humidity, precipitation, cloudiness, visibility, and wind. Weather can change at any time. Climate is the overall weather of an area over a long period of time. The difference between weather and climate is time. While weather can change day to day or hour to hour, climate is the general weather for a long period of time.

# 33

## Hurricanes

Hurricanes develop in tropical waters. They feed on moist, warm air. The air pressure is constantly changing. Warm, moist air will flow into an area with low pressure. The air rises and the moisture condenses, causing clouds to form. Then, more warm air is drawn over the surface of the ocean. The air continues to spiral upwards. As a result, clusters of thunderstorms form.

# 34

## Technology

Engineers are scientists that design technology to solve a problem. Technology is created to solve problems. For example, in the past many people died of common diseases. Technology has helped doctors determine what is wrong with a patient. Doctors can run tests and use tools to help the patient. Technology has helped scientists study bacteria, so they can produce medicines to help people when they are sick.

# 35

## Heat Energy

**Heat energy** is the energy of moving particles. Heat always moves from a warmer object to the cooler object. If you hold an ice cube in your hand, the body heat from your hand will move to the ice cube. This will cause the ice to begin melting. As a result, the ice will change states and become a liquid.

# 36

## Instinctive & Learned Behaviors

A behavior is something that an animal does. Some behaviors are **instinctive**, or inherited, while other behaviors are **learned**. Animals learn behaviors by watching other animals or being taught by their parents. Sometimes a behavior is a combination of both instinctive and learned. For example, a lion is born with the instinct to hunt. The cub learns how to hunt by watching its mothers and imitating her strategies.

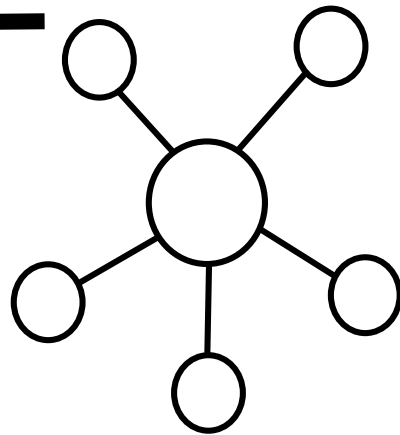


# DESCRIPTION

The author explains a topic, idea, person, place, or thing by listing **characteristics, features, and examples**. Focus is on one thing and topic (or synonyms) is repeated throughout the text.

## Signal Words

- For example
- Such as
- Looks like
- Consists of
- Most important
- Directions
- For instance
- Characteristics are
- On (date)
- At (time)
- At the same time



- While
- Meanwhile

## For Example:

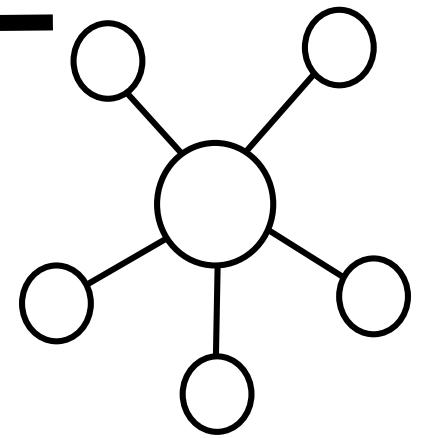
On an early fall misty morning, the orb-web spider spins its web. "Orb" means a ring or circle, which describes the web's shape. The fine silk threads are coated with sticky goo to snare insect food. Dewdrops on the web make it easier for people to see the web.

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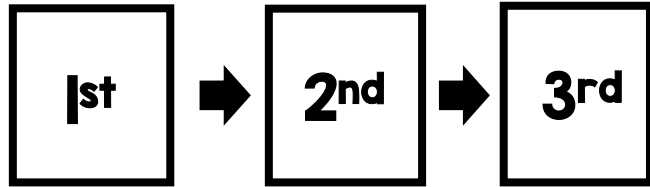
# SEQUENCE

## Chronological/Time Order

The author lists items or events in **numerical** or **chronological order**. Sequence describes the **order of events** or how to do or make something.

## Signal Words

- First,
- Second,
- Third
- Next
- then
- after
- Finally
- Before, prior to
- Not long after
- Simultaneously
- At last



- In the end
- After that
- Following

## For Example:

In 1804, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led an expedition called The Corps of Discovery. They arrived at the Knife River Villages. Then, they built Fort Mandan. In the spring, Charbonneau and Sacagawea joined their crew as a guide and interpreter. During the expedition, Sacagawea played a vital role in the success of their journey.

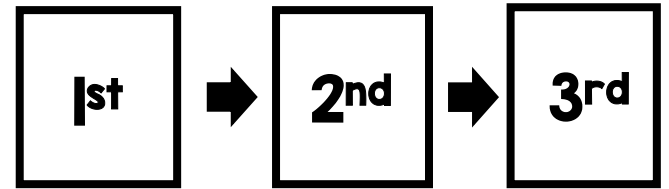
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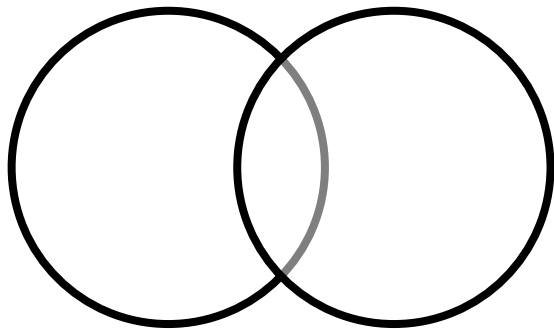
# COMPARE *and* CONTRAST

## Alike and Different

The author explains how two or more things are **alike** or **different**.

### Signal Words

- Differs from
- Similar to
- In contrast
- Alike
- Same as
- As well as
- However
- Both
- Either , or
- Not only, but also
- Yet, although, but



Also look for  
**-est** words:  
**best, fewest,  
tallest, etc.**

### For Example:

How can you tell the difference between crocodiles, alligators, and caimans? One easy-to-see difference is that alligators and caimans have a wide, rounded snout that looks like the letter U, shown here, top. Crocodiles usually have a much more pointed snout that looks like the handle of a baseball bat.

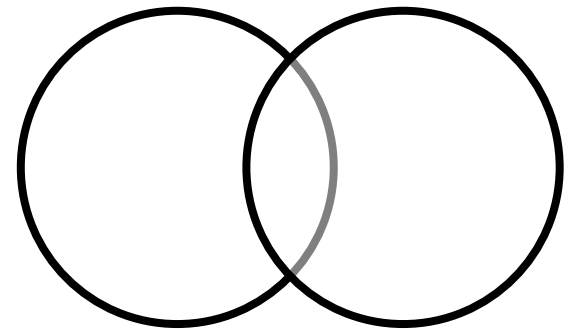
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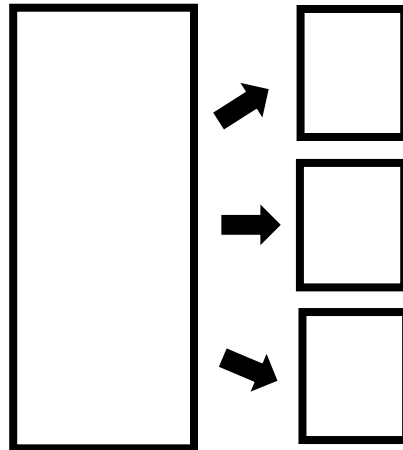
# CAUSE *and* EFFECT

The author lists one or more **causes or events** and the **results** that occur.

## Signal Words

---

- Caused by
- Result
- Outcome
- Impact
- So..
- In order to
- Brought about by
- Effects of
- Therefore
- Because of
- Influenced by
- Leads or leads to...



## For Example:

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Hurricanes develop in tropical waters. They feed on moist, warm air. The air pressure is constantly changing. Warm, moist air will flow into an area with low pressure. The air rises and the moisture condenses and results into clouds. Then, more warm air is drawn over the surface of the ocean. The air continues to spiral upwards. As a result, clusters of thunderstorms form.

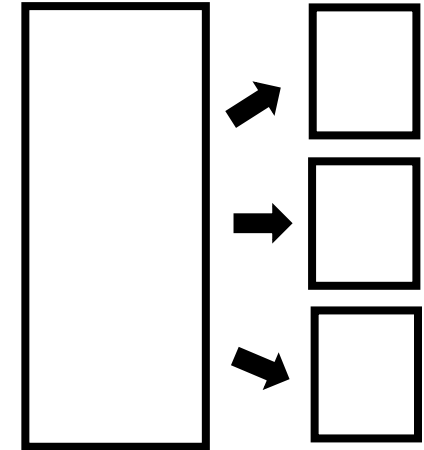
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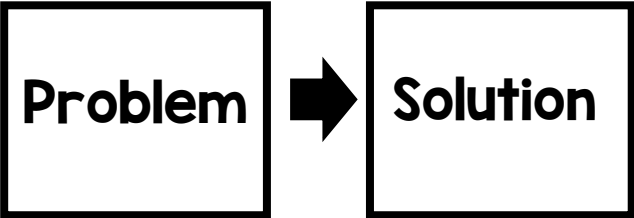
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# PROBLEM *and* SOLUTION

The author states a **problem** and lists one or more possible **solutions** to the problem and may include the pros and cons for the solutions.

## Signal Words

- Since
  - This led to
  - Question
  - Answer
  - Because
  - This led to, so that...
  - One possible solution
  - The main difficulty is...
  - Problem is...
  - Dilemma is...
  - Puzzle is...
  - Solved
- 
- Therefore,
  - One challenge...
  - This
  - If...then...
  - Thus...

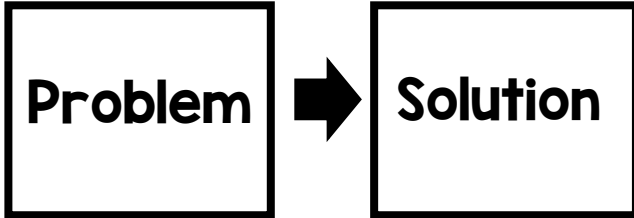
## For Example:

Like many other wild animals, crocodilians are chased away by people building houses, roads, bridges, and dams. But with proper understanding of what to do and a willingness to share the natural resources of the land, people of goodwill can prevent crocodilians from becoming as extinct as the dinosaurs.

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