

Problem and Solution Notes

Nonfiction Text Structure

- * **Problem and Solution:** a pattern of organization where information in a passage is expressed as a dilemma or concerning issue (a problem) and something that was, can be, or should be done to remedy this issue (solution or attempted solution).

Warning!

- * Sometimes confused with cause and effect
- * In problem and solution, both a problem and a solution or possible solution are presented
- * Cause and effect passages do not propose solutions to any negative occurrences within the passage but rather just explain why or how they happen.
- * Signal Words
- * Often, authors will signal problem and solution structure with clue words like “problem” and “solution”.

Example

Park School had a terrible problem. **Every day at recess, students would argue over the slides (Problem)**. Teachers had to spend time every day taking care of the arguments. Finally, one teacher came up with a great solution. **They bought another set of slides that everyone could enjoy. (Solution)**

Desired result?: To have the arguing stop

Signal Words

- * Sometimes authors will use related words
- * Synonyms for problem include *difficulty, struggle, uncertainty, worry, threat, and trouble*
- * Synonyms for solution include *possibility, hope, bright spot, answer, and future*

On Your Own

****Circle the problem, underline the solution, and highlight or box the signal words.**

The Chesapeake Bay faces an uncertain future. Issues such as pesticides, too many nutrients, and habitat loss all threaten the Bay’s water quality and animal life. However, scientists are hopeful that the future may be brighter. If everyone in the Chesapeake Bay watershed works together, solutions may be found.

Desired result?: