Comprehension Strategy: Problem and Solution

Complete the following items to practice the comprehension strategy for this unit.

Read the e-zine articles on the following pages, each of which has an introduction to a problem, a problem, and then three possible solutions. Explain which parts of the article fit with each part of the problem-solution structure. Then, answer the other questions about the articles.

Learning Objective:
• Identify the features and purposes of problem-solution text structure.
When you think about going on a cross-country road trip, or going to the movies, or even just taking a quick trip to the grocery store, most people think of the same way to travel to each of these places: in a car. But, lately, lots of people have been concerned about problems with how cars are designed and fuelled today. Many cars run on gasoline, which is expensive and pollutes the air, and if something is hurting the environment and your wallet, something isn’t right! So how can we keep our cars running and use something that’s safer for the environment and more affordable? Scientists have been working to find the answers.

Bioethanol is a fuel that’s made from plants like corn or sugar cane. This type of fuel is better for the environment and is cheaper than gasoline since corn is so readily available. Another possible fuel alternative is electric cars. Imagine driving a real car that runs like a remote-controlled car—that is, a car that runs completely on batteries that could be charged at the end of the day! Or what if we had flying cars, like in the movies? One day, flying cars may be possible with the use of strong magnets. In fact, some trains already use this magnet technology to create levitation, which is a technology where an electromagnetic reaction allows a train to ride on a cushion of air. But all of these fuel alternatives will require extensive research and hard work before they become widely available to the public. Until then, a great solution might simply be carpooling. If more people travel in the same car, the cost to each person is reduced, and there are fewer cars on the road polluting the air.
1. Introduction of the problem: __________________________________________

2. Problem: __________________________________________________________

3. Solution 1: ________________________________________________________

4. Solution 2: ________________________________________________________

5. Solution 3: ________________________________________________________

6. Solution 4: ________________________________________________________

7. Which solution do you think the author supports the most? Why?

   _________________________________________________________________

8. How did the organization of this article help you to understand it?

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   _________________________________________________________________
As Kyle sat in his basement preparing to start his homework, he decided he’d be able to work much better if he listened to some music. So he turned to his radio, which was sitting on the table next to him, and hit the “power” button. Suddenly, a deafening roar of garbled static emanated from the speakers. Startled and disappointed, Kyle quickly turned off the radio. “Great,” he mumbled, “my radio’s broken.” Stephanie, his younger sister who was sitting nearby, said, “It’s not broken. You’re just not getting any reception because you’re in the basement!” Kyle glared at her grumpily, but then realized she was right and began brainstorming ways to fix his radio reception dilemma. He could try to adjust the antennae, but that almost never worked because he would wriggle the sensitive metal around for several minutes without making the sound any clearer. Perhaps he would just listen to a CD instead, but he was getting bored with all the music he owned. He wanted to listen to the new music playing on his favorite radio station! Then Kyle thought about what his sister had told him and came up with the best solution of all. He couldn’t get reception on his radio because he was in the basement, but if he went to a location where his radio could more easily pick up a signal, maybe his problem would be solved! Sure enough, when Kyle took the radio upstairs to the kitchen, the music came in loud and clear.
1. Introduction of the problem: __________________________

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2. Problem: __________________________

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3. Solution 1: __________________________

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4. Solution 2: __________________________

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5. Solution 3: __________________________

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6. Which solution do you think the author supports the most? Why?

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7. How did the organization of this article help you to understand it?

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