

Text structure: Problem and solution

Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

Text structure is how an author organizes information in a nonfiction text.

Problem and solution is a type of text structure in which an author describes a challenge and explains how it is solved.

Signal words are clue words that help you identify the text structure. Signal words for problem and solution texts include **problem, because, in order to, one reason for, a solution, since, may be due to, therefore, as a result** and **solve**.

Circle the text's signal words, underline the problem(s), and put a squiggly line under the solution(s).

Do you like playing video games, watching TV or using a tablet? Lots of kids do! Screens can be both educational and fun to use for entertainment. Looking at screens too much, though, has become a big problem for children and adults. It's not uncommon for people to spend hours and hours a day looking at screens... and it's not good!

Too much screen time can affect your body and your mind. When people sit and look at screens all day, they move less and get less exercise. Their eyes can become tired and their backs may start to hurt because of how they sit. Using screens in the evening can also make it harder to fall asleep. Plus, those who spend too much time using their devices may miss chances to do other healthy activities, like play outside, read books or spend time with their family.

One easy solution to this problem is to put limits on daily screen time usage. Families can create rules about how long screens should be used every day. For example, maybe children can only use screens for a certain amount of time on weekdays. Limits can help make sure there is still time for other activities!

Screens can be addictive, so another solution is reminding yourself of the activities you like to do that don't involve screens. These may include playing sports, riding bikes, drawing pictures or reading books. When people remind themselves of the things they like to do that don't include screens, they are less likely to feel the need to use screens.

A third solution that families can try is to create screen-free times. These are specific times throughout the day when everyone must turn off their screens. Many families do this during meals or right before bedtime. This gives everyone a chance to talk and relax without being interrupted.



There's no doubt that screen time can be a challenge, but thankfully there are many ways to solve the problem. With some small changes, it's not hard to find a balance between screens and other activities!

Use your annotations to answer the questions below.

1. What is the main problem in this passage?

2. What are some details from the text that help explain this problem?

3. What are three possible solutions to this problem?

4. How does the author organize the information in this passage?

Answers

1. What is the main problem in this passage?

People are spending too much time looking at screens.

2. What are some details from the text that help explain this problem?

- People may spend hours and hours a day looking at screens.
- People who use screens too much move less and get less exercise.
- Too much screen time can make people's eyes tired and their backs hurt.
- Using screens in the evening can make it harder to fall asleep.
- People may miss chances to play outside, read books or spend time with family.

3. What are three possible solutions to this problem?

- Put limits on how long screens can be used each day.
- Do other activities that don't involve screens, like sports, biking, drawing or reading.
- Create screen-free times during the day, such as during meals or before bedtime.

4. How does the author organize the information in this passage?

The author first explains the problem of too much screen time and then describes several possible solutions.