



Creek Clean-Up Brief

Mission: The city council wants a short brief about how students saved Sunnyside Creek. Read the article, color-code the problem, its causes, and the solutions, then write the brief.

Big question: How do problem-solution and cause-effect structures organize an informational text?

★ Warm-up: Cause → effect

Finish each cause-effect chain.

It rained all night, so... ✓ **the playground was muddy.**

Because the store ran out of milk,... ✓ **we bought juice.**

Key vocabulary

Problem	Something that needs fixing.
Cause	Why something happens.
Effect	What happens as a result.
Solution	A way to fix a problem.
Native plants	Plants that grow naturally in an area.

1 Box 1

Color-code it

In the simulator: Highlight the problem (), two causes (), and two solutions ().

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Cause and effect chain

Put the cause-effect chain in order.

Put in order: Algae grows very fast · Algae uses up oxygen · Fewer fish can survive · Rain washes fertilizer into the creek

1. **Rain washes fertilizer into the creek**
2. **Algae grows very fast**
3. **Algae uses up oxygen**
4. **Fewer fish can survive**

Why flowers?

How do native flowers help the creek?

- ☐ Their roots soak up rainwater before it carries pollution to the creek ☐ They make the creek smell nice
☐ Fish eat them

✓ **Their roots soak up rainwater before it carries pollution to the creek**

3 Box 3

Write the brief

Write a brief for the city council.

Problem

Look for: Names the problem; at least 8 words

Causes

Look for: Names a cause; Explains how it hurt the creek; at least 10 words

Solutions

Look for: Names the clean-up; Names the planting; at least 10 words

4 Box 4

Legend: evidence it worked Legend only

What evidence shows the solutions worked? Quote the text.

Look for: Uses the results; an exact quote from the text; at least 10 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do problem-solution and cause-effect structures organize an informational text?

Look for: Many informational texts explain a problem, its causes, and the solutions. Marking each part helps you understand how ideas connect and makes it easier to summarize.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	132-E
 Investigator	14Y-I
 Legend	G7K-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "The main idea is always the first sentence." It can be anywhere or not stated at all.
- "The most interesting detail is the main idea." The main idea is the point the details support.
- "Texts only have one structure." Authors often mix structures; look for the main one.