

Problem Solving- Determining Cause and Effect

Grade level: 6-12

Subject area: Social Studies, Language Arts

Objective: To determine cause and effect relationships

Materials Needed:

- Today's newspaper
- Activity sheet that appears on the next page

Directions:

1. Distribute today's newspaper and give the students a few minutes to read anything they want.
2. Ask how many of them read about any type of problem.
3. Review a news article together and look for cause and effect relationships that exist within the article. For example: In a story about an armed conflict, can the students determine what that cause of the conflict was? Can they determine the effect of specific events?
4. Distribute the worksheet.
5. Allow students to work alone or in small groups.

Sharing:

- Ask for a student/group to describe one problem they found. What cause and effect relationships were reported in the article?
- Repeat this with other groups.

Extension:

- Ask your students to write an editorial about a problem in the community. Describe the problem, list the root causes of the problem and how those problems effect the community. They should then propose a solution to the problem.

Problem Solving – Determining Cause & Effect

Directions: Your newspaper presents numerous problems that affect you directly or indirectly. As a citizen, it is your responsibility to be aware of these problems and the decisions being made about their solutions. Using the newspaper, locate three problems in the news. Briefly describe each problem and determine the cause and effects of each.

	Brief Description of Problem	Causes	Effects
1			
2			
3			