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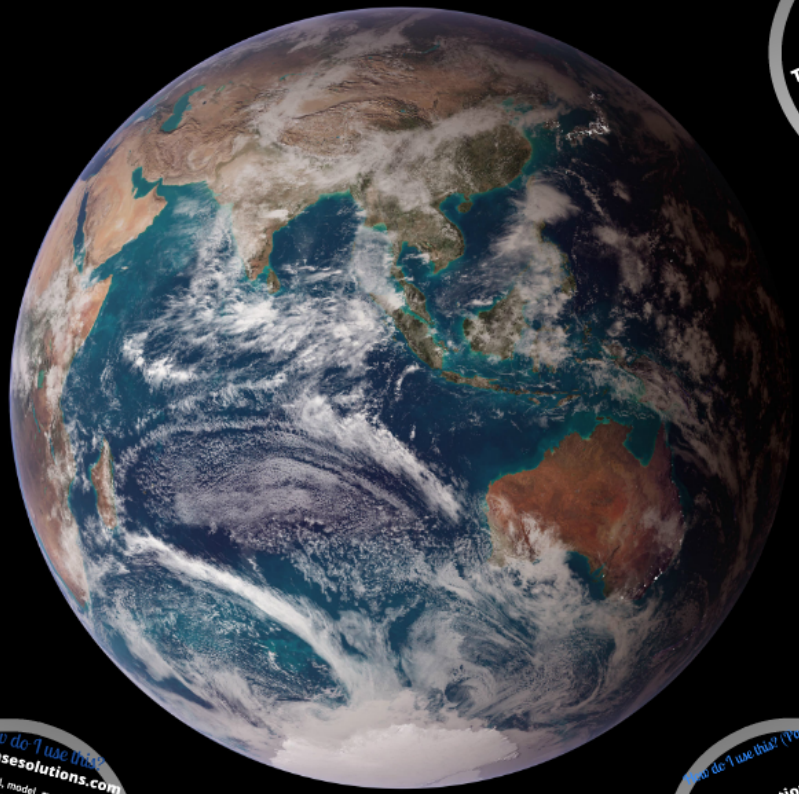
Structured Notes



How do you take notes?

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Dr. King's Speech

Inspired by the inspiring speeches of thousands of people on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on the morning of August 28, 1963 in Washington, D.C.

In a electrifying speech, King explains why the people should be here. "We've come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children."

Concerning the church's role in the civil rights movement, King declares that the church must "be the guardian of our great heritage of freedom. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will lose its authority, its leadership role, and its significance. We are living in a day when men are working passionately and unrelentingly to get man to the moon. Shouldn't we be as concerned about getting men to the kingdom of God and to the solution of the problems of man?"

Through the democratic use of civil disobedience, King believes that the Negro can "be assured that we will be the recipients of unprecedented opportunities to develop the full potentialities of our personalities. Let us therefore set out on this bright day of history and confront the difficult days ahead. Let us not despair, for we come to you out of the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream."

What is structured note-taking?

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- The purpose:
  - Helps students become more effective note takers.
- More than 50% of the material that students read or hear is forgotten within minutes, so having a note-taking strategy greatly increases retention and recall!
- Uses graphic organizers that are specific to the text.
  - Helps students comprehend the content of the reading, retain information and then recall the information later.
- Used during (and can be used after) reading.
- Benefits:
  - Helpful when students are interpreting/ determining textual structures.
  - Gives students a reading guide to get through hard texts.
  - Acts as a model of how students should organize their ideas as they read.

Proposition/Support

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Problem/Solution

My Experience

I have taken notes before , and have used graphic organizers, but I don't remember ever using them together in this manner.

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How do I use this?

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Model, model, model!

2. Determine the organization of the text:
   - Chronological, Compare and Contrast, Order of Importance, Sequence, Spatial, Cause and Effect, Problem and Solution
3. Create a graphic organizer for the specific type of text your are working with.
   - Initially, the teacher should create the graphic organizer for the class. But after the students have a solid understanding, they should be able to create their own.
4. Assign passage to the students for them to take notes on.
   - Initially, work through the graphic organizer with them. When they are able, they should be able to complete it themselves.

How do I use this? (Part 2)

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4. After the students have completed the readings, they share their work with a partner, or small group.
   - They explain why they included/excluded certain information.
   - justify why they placed it where they did on the graphic organizer.
5. Provide more scaffolding and practice as needed so the students can identify the type of text, create the graphic organizer themselves and then find the appropriate information individually.

photo credit Nasa / Goddard Space Flight Center / Reto Stöckli

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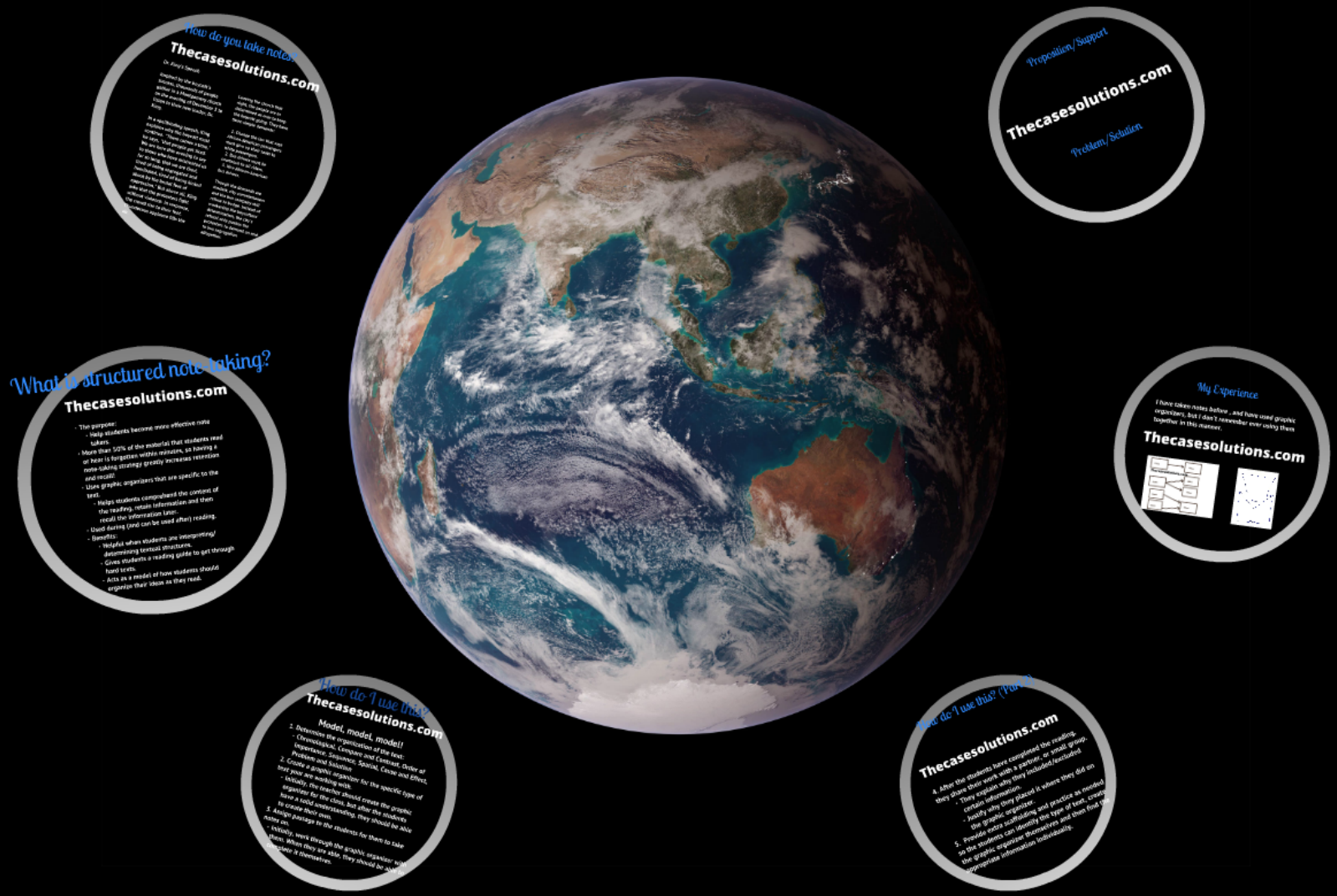

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Inspired by the boycott's success, thousands of people gather in a Montgomery church on the evening of December 5 to listen to their new leader, Dr. King.

In a spellbinding speech, King explains why the boycott must continue. "There comes a time," he says, "that people get tired. We are here this evening to say to those who have mistreated us for so long, that we are tired, tired of being segregated and humiliated, tired of being kicked about by the brutal feet of oppression." But above all, King asks that the protesters fight without violence. In response, the crowd rise to their feet. Thunderous applause fills the air.

Leaving the church that night, the people are as determined as ever to keep the boycott going. They have three simple demands:

1. Change the law that says African-American passengers must give up their seats to white passengers.
2. Bus drivers must be courteous to all riders.
3. Hire African-American bus drivers.

Though the demands are modest, city commissioners and the bus company still refuse to budge. Instead of weakening the boycotters' determination, the city's refusal only pushes the protesters to demand an end to bus segregation altogether.

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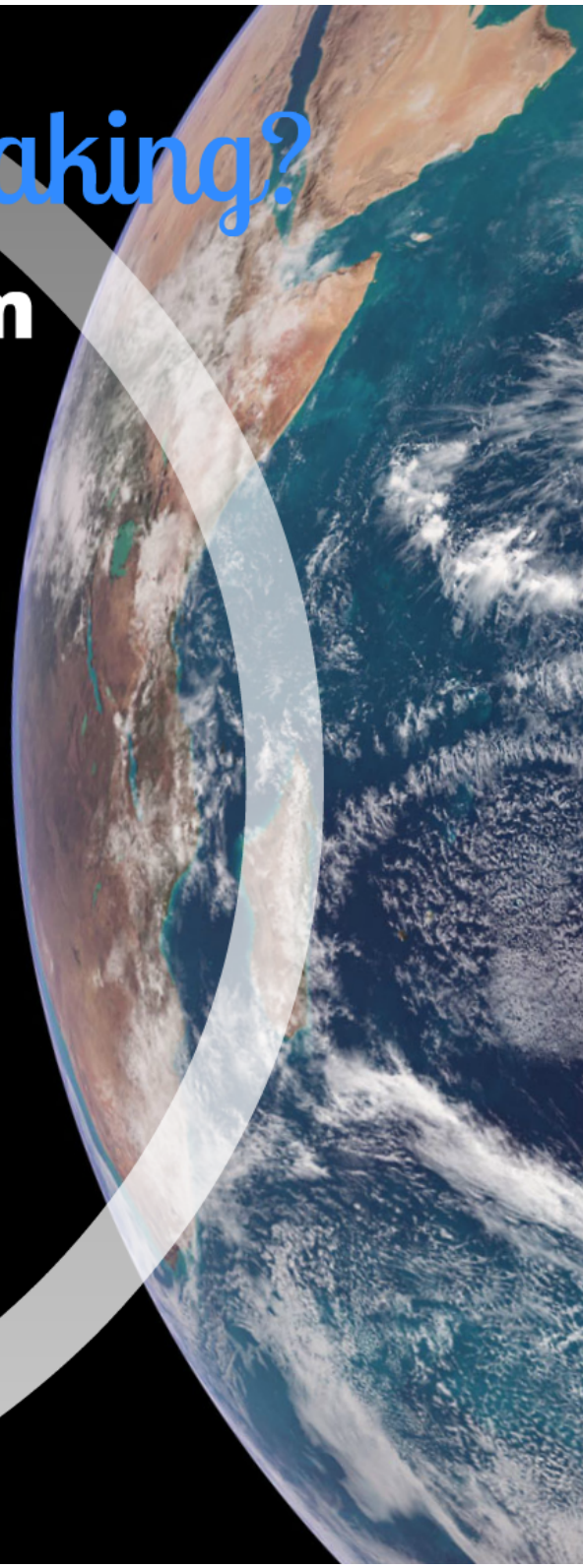

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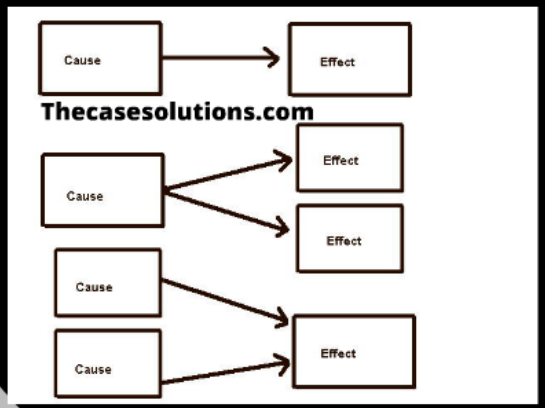

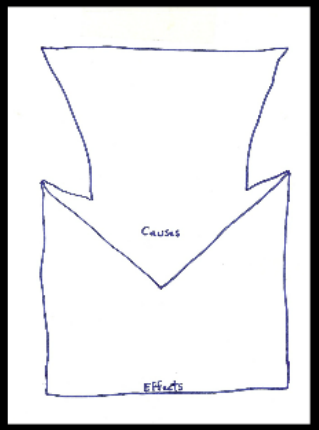

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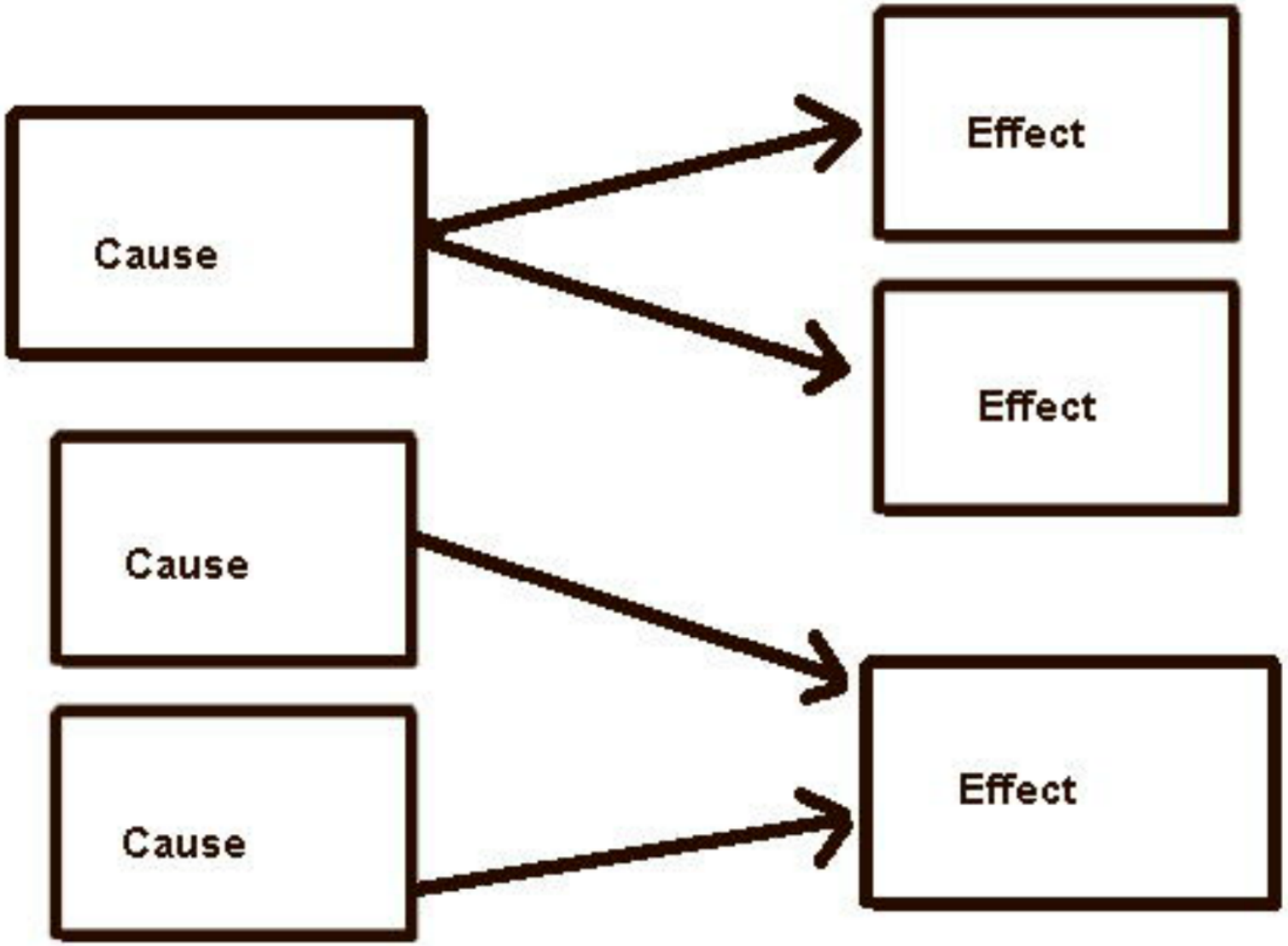

Proposition/Support
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Problem/Solution