LC-1114 Communicating Technology

Style and Form 1 Review
Patterns of organization: Problem-solution

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Session 3

**Aalto University
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The recommendation report

Introduction

Max 200 words

> GENERAL CONTEXT, THE NEED, SOLUTION, evaluation
> Pattern: problem-solution
>
> Topic, focus and purpose of text

Body

300- words

> DESCRIPTION OF *SOLUTION*
> Pattern: Extended definition
>
> Sentence definition + 3-4 key properties

Conclusion

50 words

> RECOMMENDATION (restated?) and
> summary of key ideas/arguments

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Situation

Importance?
Relevance?

- What is the current situation?
- Why is the topic important for this reader?

Problem

Causes?
Consequences?
Past problem?
Criteria for solving?

- What is wrong with the current situation?
- What is needed / lacking?

Solution

What are its features?
How does it work?

- What is your solution?

Evaluation

How effective is it?
Meet criteria?

- Is this a good solution?
- Why?

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Situation

Importance, relevance
major, important, popular, common, and *many*

Problem

Causes, consequences, past solutions, …
contrast (*However, despite, although, but*),
negative (*limited, few, little, no, not, none*),
synonyms (*danger, drawback, disadvantage,
weakness, need, shortcoming,
obstacle*).

Solution

Features? How does it work?
nouns *solution, answer, approach, strategy, improvement*
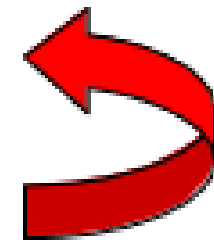**verbs** *solve, address a problem, work out, develop*
causative connectors *therefore, as a result, thus*

Evaluation

How effective? Meet the criteria?
nouns *benefit, advantage*
verbs *provide, offer, enable, allow*
adjectives *effective, efficient, reliable, safe, useful*

What is a recommendation report?

You propose a solution to a need or a problem that you have identified in the current practices, products or services of your client / audience

e.g., a weakness in design, function, or implementation

e.g., decision-makers of a municipality or institution, company representatives, or International organization -> user of the solution

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EXAMPLE: introduction paragraph

E-reader recommendation

[1]The threat of global warming **has** forc**ed** consumers to find 'green' alternatives to **many** of the **everyday** objects that we use. [2]One **important** object that is **widely** used for both entertainment and educational purposes is the book. [3]**However,** to feed our need for information and knowledge, the book and newspaper industries **require** the harvest of 125 million trees each year and emit over 40 million metric tons of CO_2 annually, equivalent to the annual CO_2 emissions of 7.3 million cars. [4]**Moreover,** considering the conversion into paper, printing and distribution of these printed media, one can easily understand why books have one of the highest per-unit carbon footprints.

[5]These adverse environmental effects **can** be avoided by replacing printed media with digital forms. [6]Electronic books **can** be downloaded from the Internet, and then read using special devices, known as e-readers. [7]An e-reader **allows** readers to store many books at once, and is lighter and more portable than the traditional book. [8]E-readers are not only being used by the general public but also by specific groups of people for their own special purposes, and the available banks of digital texts are constantly growing. [9]These specific groups include college and high school students, mobile professionals, and people with vision problems. [10]Therefore, this report recommends adopting an e-reader for use by students and staff at the South Tapiola High School.

Task 2: Identify the 4 moves

- **Read** the text on automated identification of potential avalanche release.

- **Identify** the four moves on the problem-solution

  pattern:
  Situation
  Problem
  Solution
  Evaluation

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Task 2: Identify the 4 moves

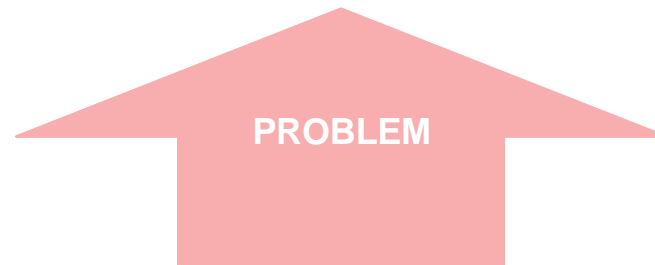**1** Avalanche release zone information such as location, extent and release height are essential for avalanche mitigation measure planning.

SITUATION

Task 2: Identify the 4 moves

2 However, the identification of release areas is a very difficult task as the release mechanism of snow avalanches depends on many different terrain, meteorological, snowpack and triggering parameters and their interactions. 3 Furthermore, nearly no information on avalanche release areas exists in many alpine regions, such as the Indian Himalaya, mainly due to the very rough and poorly accessible terrain, the vast size of the region and the lack of avalanche records. 4 Thus, avalanche release information is urgently required for numerical simulation of avalanche events to plan mitigation measures, for hazard mapping and to secure important roads, such as the Rohtang tunnel access road near Manali, India.

PROBLEM

Task 2: Identify the 4 moves

5 By far the most reliable way to identify avalanche release areas is using historic avalanche records and field investigations accomplished by avalanche experts in the formation zones.

SOLUTION 1

Task 2: Identify the 4 moves

6 However, neither of these methods is feasible for this area due to the rough terrain, its vast extent and lack of time.
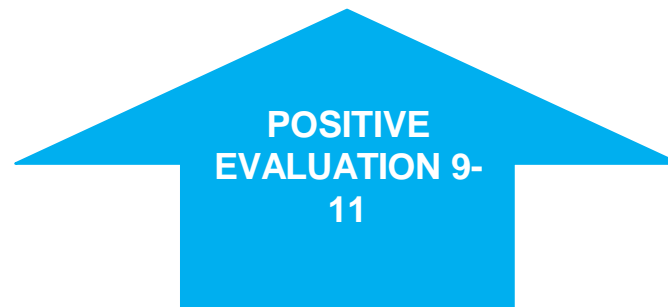
NEGATIVE
EVALUATION 1

Task 2: Identify the 4 moves

7 Therefore, we have developed an operational, easy-to-use automated potential release area (PRA) detection tool in Python/ArcGIS. **8** This tool uses high spatial resolution digital elevation models (DEMs) and forest cover information derived from airborne remote sensing instruments as input.

SOLUTION 2

Task 2: Identify the 4 moves

9 Such instruments can acquire spatially continuous data even over inaccessible terrain and cover large areas. **10** The tool was validated using a database of historic avalanches acquired over 56 years in Davos, Switzerland, and apply this method for the avalanche tracks along the Rohtang tunnel access road. **11** This tool, used by avalanche experts, delivers valuable input to identify focus areas for more detailed investigations on avalanche release areas in remote regions, such as the Indian Himalaya. In addition, it is a precondition for large-scale avalanche hazard mapping.

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POSITIVE EVALUATION 9-11

Assignment 2: Introduction paragraph

Topic: Problem/need and its solution.

Audience: Decision makers, educated but non-expert

Pattern of organization: problem-solution

Length: 150-200 words

Deadline: 12:30 Wednesday, Mar 15

This text will become the introduction paragraph of a recommendation report which proposes a solution to a need or problem identified in the current practices, products or services of your client.

- The problem can be a weakness in current design, function or implementation, something that is needed but missing
- The client can be any potential user of the solution (decision makers of a municipality, an institution, company, international organization…).

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Assignment 2: Introduction paragraph

Content (use this as a template but do not include the questions in your own text!)

- **Situation** = wider context and relevance (describe the general importance / relevance of topic and state current context – name the client)
- **Problem** = weakness/problem arising from your client's current practice (explain what is
lacking / needed / unsatisfactory – "However,…")
- **Solution** = name the proposed solution to the problem (you will describe the solution in more detail in other parts of the final text)
- **Evaluation** = Briefly state the main advantage of this solution to justify the recommendation (you will also discuss that in more detail later in the text)

At the end of your text, include **a list of references** to sources you have used to find the information. Include also in-text citations.

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