



W.O.W. Factor



Words Of Wisdom for FPS Coaches and Students

RESEARCH: How to Use an Article to practice the FPS Process

Researching the topic is an important step in FPS. This activity will show you how to take specific information from an article and turn it into a challenge, underlying problem or solution.

FIRST: Read *The Sad Truth About Zoos: Elephants in Captivity are Getting Fat, Depressed, and Going Insane* by Chrissy Spallone

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/news/study-shows-obesity-affects-forty-percent-of-elephants-in-captivity/>

SECOND: Answer these questions:

1. Elephants in captivity can become obese. Why is this a problem?
2. What do captive elephants suffer from as a result of cramped conditions and hard floors?
3. What might occur when elephants in captivity get no exercise or companionship?
4. What might negative reinforcement training, like prodding animals with painful bullhooks, result in?
5. Why is an elephant sanctuary a better alternative than a zoo?

NEXT: Question #1 describes a challenge about the treatment of animals. You can write this challenge using the cause/effect/consequence format as follows:

Because elephants in zoos lead a sedentary lifestyle, they can become obese. This can contribute to heart disease, arthritis, infertility, and a shorter lifespan.

Try using questions 2, 3 and 4 to write challenges.

A **“WHO”** is a person or agency that has the PIE (**P**ower, **I**nterest, and **E**xpertise) to implement a solution. **What WHOs were mentioned in this article?**

Question #6 refers to a solution. **What underlying problem does it help solve?**

Write up the sanctuary solution telling WHO will do WHAT, and WHY or HOW it helps solve that underlying problem.





W.O.W. Factor



Words Of Wisdom for FPS Coaches and Students

TEACHER GUIDE

Question Answers

1. Elephants in captivity can become obese. Why is this a problem?
Obesity contributes to heart disease, arthritis, a shorter lifespan, and infertility.
2. What do captive elephants suffer from as a result of cramped conditions and hard floors?
They suffer from arthritis and issues with their feet and joints.
3. What might occur when elephants in captivity get no exercise or companionship?
Psychological distress, which leads to abnormal, repetitive behaviors like head bobbing
4. What might negative reinforcement training, like prodding animals with painful bullhooks, result in?
It aggravates the elephants to the point where some have injured or killed zookeepers.
5. Why is an elephant sanctuary a better alternative than a zoo?
It keeps elephants away from poachers and gives them the space, resources and social contact they need to lead happy, healthy, active lives.

Possible Challenges from questions 2, 3 and 4

- (2) Captive elephants typically live in cramped conditions with hard floors. This can cause arthritis and issues with their feet and joints, thus resulting in pain for the elephants.
- (3) Elephants in captivity typically get no exercise or companionship with other elephants like they would in the wild. This can cause psychological distress, which can lead to abnormal, repetitive behaviors like head bobbing.
- (4) Negative reinforcement, like prodding an elephant with a painful bullhook, is often used by zookeepers in training. As a result, elephants may become aggravated, which could cause them to act out and injure or even kill the zookeeper.

WHOS

Zoos, zookeepers, Lincoln Park Zoo, scientists, tourists, TIME Magazine, Elephant Family, TRAFFIC

Possible Underlying Problem (without parameters)

Elephants in captivity do not get to travel, play, and bathe like they do in the wild, and their sedentary lifestyle can lead to obesity, arthritis and psychological distress. Therefore, how might we *support captive elephants' instincts to explore*, so that they can lead healthy and active lives?

Written Solution

Zoos will create elephant sanctuaries that are large and simulate the elephant's natural environment. They will be given the space, resources and social contact with other elephants, just like they would have in the wild. Besides supporting the elephants' natural instinct to herd and explore, it will give observers an accurate picture of true elephant behavior.