

PROBLEM & SOLUTION

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TAKES AIM AT UNNECESSARY HOME PLATE COLLISIONS

Major League Baseball (MLB) had a problem at home plate. Unnecessary collisions between runners and catchers at home plate were resulting in serious injuries.

Catchers were putting themselves at risk of injury by blocking home plate so a runner couldn't score. A catcher would use his body to block home plate, even when he didn't have the ball. Without a clear path to home plate, runners were slamming or sliding into catchers in order to score. Runners would also intentionally collide with the catchers so that the catcher would drop the ball, and thus be unable to tag him out. This "win at all costs" gameplay led to some major injuries, including broken legs, dislocated ankles, and torn ligaments.

To reduce the number of injuries caused by unnecessary collisions at home plate, MLB added Rule 7.13 in 2014. Under rule 7.13, a catcher may not block the pathway of a runner attempting to score unless he has possession of the ball. If the catcher blocks the runner before he has the ball, the umpire may call the runner safe. Likewise, a runner can't intentionally collide with the catcher. If the runner does, the umpire can call the player out even if the catcher drops the ball.

While Rule 7.13 limits home plate collisions, it doesn't eliminate them. Collisions at home plate can still happen and cause serious injury to players. However, this rule is an excellent start to solving this problem.



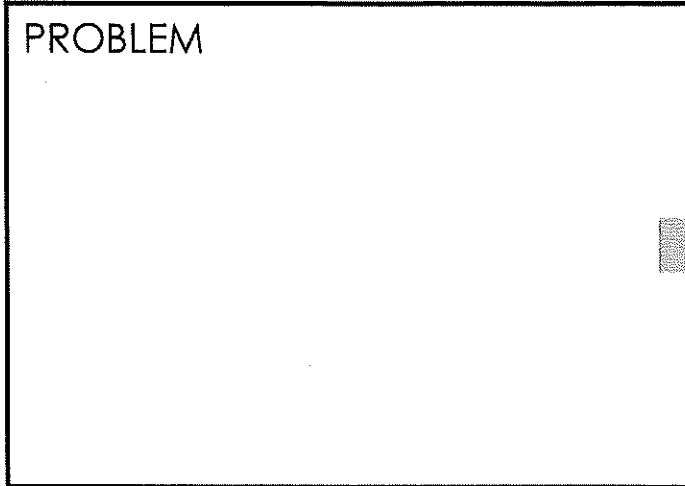
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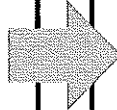
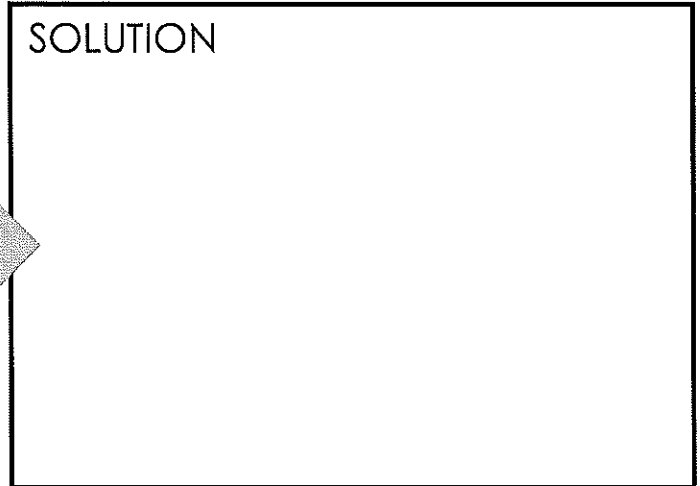
TEXT STRUCTURE ➔ Problem & Solution

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage "Major League Baseball..." and fill in the organizer below.

PROBLEM



SOLUTION



Explain how this solution solved the problem?

List key words and phrases from the passage that show the text structure is problem and solution.



What was the author's main purpose for writing this passage?
