



**PENNSYLVANIA  
GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS**

# **BP Oil Spill**

**Keystone Exam:** Literature  
**Module:** 2 - Nonfiction  
**Task Number:** 2  
**Year Published:** 2011  
**Code:** LIT-2-2-11

<i>Name</i>	_____
<i>PA Secure ID</i>	_____
<i>School District</i>	_____
<i>District Contact</i>	_____
<i>Submission Date</i>	_____

**STUDENT BOOKLET**

### Eligible Content

<p><b>L.N.1.1.1</b> Identify and/or analyze the author’s intended purpose of a text.</p> <p><b>L.N.1.1.4</b> Explain how an author’s use of key words or phrases in text informs and influences the reader.</p> <p><b>L.N.1.3.1</b> Identify and/or explain stated or implied main ideas and relevant supporting details from a text.</p> <p><b>L.N.2.1.2</b> Cite evidence from a text to support generalizations.</p> <p><b>L.N.2.2.3</b> Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate connections between texts.</p>	<p><b>L.N.2.3.6</b> Explain, interpret, compare, describe, analyze, and/or evaluate <u>point of view</u> in a variety of nonfiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the impact of point of view on the meaning of a text as a whole.</li></ul> <p><b>L.N.2.5.1</b> Differentiate between fact and opinion.</p> <p><b>L.N.2.5.2</b> Explain, interpret, describe, and/or analyze the use of facts and opinions in a text.</p> <p><b>L.N.2.5.3</b> Distinguish essential from nonessential information.</p> <p><b>L.N.2.5.4</b> Identify, explain, and/or interpret <u>bias and propaganda</u> techniques in nonfictional text.</p>
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### Project Overview

You are a journalist who is exploring the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Your editor has assigned you the task of finding bias in several news articles. Quality journalists need to be mindful of bias in their reporting. For example, if you read an article entitled *BP Oil Spill Could Ruin All Water Supplies*, you may think it is true but realize that your own drinking water was not ruined. The bias is against BP and is fairly obvious. However, in many instances, bias is the subtle presence of a positive or negative approach toward a topic, which requires that the reader carefully look for facts and not just opinion.

Your job is to analyze four news articles. For each article, you will be required to complete a corresponding graphic organizer. You must distinguish between facts and opinions presented in the text. Based upon your findings, you will identify bias in the presentation made by each author regarding the oil spill. Keep in mind that, as a journalist, you want to accurately inform the public about the situation.

As you read the articles, consider such elements as the author’s purpose, intent, reliability, and authority/occupation. All of these components may impact the opinion formed or the information presented to the audience.

All activities completed in this project will be submitted for evaluation. Thus, in order to receive a passing score for the project, all activities must be completed successfully.

### Project Directions

1. Read all directions, project requirements, and scoring guide.
2. Read all articles and transcripts carefully.
3. Complete the graphic organizer associated with each text. Carefully read the directions for each graphic organizer. Your responses should be based on the article, not your own opinion.
4. As you create your final project, refer to the scoring guide.
5. Completed graphic organizers will be scored as your final product.



Suggested Strategies for Reading (include w/directions)

- Read one article at a time.
- Take notes on draft copy.
- Highlight essential information in article.
- Reread for focus on bias, author's purpose, and main idea.
- Complete the corresponding draft graphic organizer to help with analysis and connections between texts.

Resources (EC related)

- L.N.2.5.4 Watch the You Tube video and read the commentary to build understanding about bias in the media: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKrkFcvRwul>
- L.N.2.5.4 Additional information on bias in the media can be found here: <http://www.mrc.org/biasbasics/biasbasics1.asp>

Resources (project related)

- Video and transcript for Article 2, Obama's Speech: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-after-briefing-bp-oil-spill>
- View article 3, "Obama Administration Moves Long-Term Gulf Plan Forward" [http://www.lexisnexis.com/community/emergingissues/blogs/gulf\\_oil\\_spill/archive/2010/10/02/obama-administration-moves-long-term-gulf-plan-forward.aspx](http://www.lexisnexis.com/community/emergingissues/blogs/gulf_oil_spill/archive/2010/10/02/obama-administration-moves-long-term-gulf-plan-forward.aspx)

**Article 1: "BP Initiates Response to Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill"**

**Source:**

**<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7061490>**

Release date: 22 April 2010

BP today activated an extensive oil spill response in the US Gulf of Mexico following the fire and subsequent sinking of the Transocean Deepwater Horizon drilling rig 130 miles south-east of New Orleans.

BP is assisting Transocean in an assessment of the well and subsea blow out preventer with remotely operated vehicles.

BP has also initiated a plan for the drilling of a relief well, if required. A nearby drilling rig will be used to drill the well. The rig is available to begin activity immediately.

BP has mobilized a flotilla of vessels and resources that includes: significant mechanical recovery capacity; 32 spill response vessels including a large storage barge; skimming capacity of more than 171,000 barrels per day, with more available if needed; offshore storage capacity of 122,000 barrels and additional 175,000 barrels available and on standby; supplies of more than 100,000 gallons of dispersants and four aircraft ready to spray dispersant to the spill, and the pre-approval of the US Coast Guard to use them; 500,000 feet of boom increasing to 1,000,000 feet of boom by day's end; pre-planned forecasting of 48-hour spill trajectory which indicates spilled oil will remain well offshore during that period; pre-planned staging of resources for protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

"We are determined to do everything in our power to contain this oil spill and resolve the situation as rapidly, safely and effectively as possible," said Group Chief Executive Tony Hayward. "We have assembled and are now deploying world-class facilities, resources and expertise, and can call on more if needed. There should be no doubt of our resolve to limit the escape of oil and protect the marine and coastal environments from its effects."

As part of its planning and approval requirement prior to offshore activity, the area was evaluated for use of dispersants and the plans approved by the US Coast Guard which has now given the go-ahead for their use.

**Graphic Organizer 1** - This graphic organizer is meant for use with [Article 1 "BP Initiates Response of Oil Spill"](#)

Use the text boxes to analyze the text and organize your response. **This is a requirement for completing the project.**

Based upon the information the author includes in this press release, respond to the questions below.

Which points are facts?	Which points are opinions?
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How do the points you identified in the boxes above show bias on the issue?



How does the bias you identified impact the reader's understanding of the issue?



Based on your analysis above, what is BP's purpose for releasing this press statement? Include at least one example from the text to support your answer.

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**Article 2: "Remarks by the President After Briefing on BP Oil Spill"**

**Video available at source website can be used to view the speech as it was given.**

**Source:** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-after-briefing-bp-oil-spill>

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, everybody. I know it's a little warm out here so want to get started. I've just had a meeting with these governors, members of Congress, local officials, as well as Admiral Thad Allen, the National Incident Commander in charge of response efforts to the BP oil spill. Admiral Allen gave us an update, the latest information on both the efforts to plug the well, as well as giving us an update on arrangements and coordination that's being made with respect to mitigating this damage that's been done.

He updated us on these latest efforts to stop the leak, mitigate the damage to the great beaches of the Gulf coast, and I had the chance to visit with -- Charlotte -- a beach like Port Fourchon that gives you a sense of what extraordinary efforts are being made at the local level, but also the damage that we're already starting to see as a consequence of this spill.

Now, our mission remains the same as it has since this disaster began, since the day I visited Louisiana nearly four weeks ago: We want to stop the leak; we want to contain and clean up the oil; and we want to help the people of this region return to their lives and their livelihoods as soon as possible.

And our response treats this event for what it is: It's an assault on our shores, on our people, on the regional economy, and on communities like this one. This isn't just a mess that we've got to mop up. People are watching their livelihoods wash up on the beach. Parents are worried about the implications for their children's health. Every resident of this community has watched this nightmare threaten the dreams that they've worked so hard to build. And they want it made right, and they want to make it right now.

I just had a chance to listen to Mayor David Carmadelle of Grande Isle, our host here, telling us heartbreaking stories about fishermen who are trying to figure out where the next paycheck is going to come from, how are they going to pay a mortgage or a note on their boat. And he is having to dig into his pocket at this point to make sure that some of them are able to deal with the economic impact. So this is something that has to be dealt with immediately, not sometime later. And that's everybody's driving focus -- everybody who is standing behind me. This is our highest priority and it deserves a response that is equal to the task.

That's why this has already been the largest cleanup effort in U.S. history. On the day this disaster began, even as we launched a search and rescue effort for workers on the drilling rig, we were already staging equipment in the event of a larger-scale spill. By the time we discovered the third breach, a week after the Deepwater Horizon platform sank, we had already stationed more than 70 vessels and hundreds of thousands of feet of protective boom on site.

Today, there are more than 20,000 people in the region working around the clock to contain and clean up this spill. We've activated about 1,400 members of the National Guard across four states. Nearly 1,400 vessels are aiding in the containment and cleanup effort. And we deployed more than 3 million feet of hard and sorbent boom, including an additional

100,000 just yesterday for these parishes in Louisiana that face the greatest threat.

Now, I've made clear to Admiral Allen and I did so again today that he should get whatever he needs to deal with this crisis. Whatever he needs, he will get.

Right now, we're still within the window where we don't yet know the outcome of the highly complex top kill procedure that the federal government authorized BP to use to try to stop the leak. If it is successful, it would obviously be welcome news. If it's not, a team of some of the world's top scientists, engineers and experts, led by our Energy Secretary and Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Chu, has for some time been -- has for some time been exploring any and all reasonable contingency plans.

But our response will continue with its full force regardless of the outcome of the top kill approach -- because even if the leak was stopped today it wouldn't change the fact that these waters still contain oil from what is now the largest spill in American history. And more of it will come ashore.

To ensure that we're fully prepared for that, and in accordance with input from folks down here, I've directed Secretary Napolitano and Admiral Allen to triple the manpower in places where oil has hit the shore or is within 24 hours of impact. This increase will allow us to further intensify this already historic response, contain and remove oil more quickly, and help minimize the time that any oil comes into contact with our coastline. That means deploying more boom, cleaning more beaches, performing more monitoring of wildlife and impact to this ecosystem.

We're also going to continue to do whatever it takes to help Americans whose livelihoods have been upended by this spill. Gulf Coast residents should know that we've gathered all pertinent information regarding available assistance and the federal response in one place at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

We have ordered BP to pay economic injury claims, and we will make sure they deliver. And the parish presidents and governors here in Louisiana were already giving us some sense of some of the bureaucratic problems that we're going to have to cut through, but we are going to cut through them. And for those who are in economic distress, if you've already filed a claim and you're not satisfied with the resolution, then [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) will point you in the right direction.

As I said yesterday, the Small Business Administration has stepped in to help businesses by approving loans, but also as important, allowing many to defer existing loan payments. A lot of folks are still loaded up with loans that they had from Katrina and other natural disasters down here, so they may need some additional help.

If you're a small business owner and you weren't aware of some of the programs that have been put in place or haven't participated, then, again, the White House website will connect you to the resources you need. And we are making sure that all the parish presidents know, and folks like the mayor, other local officials are going to be aware of how they can get immediate help from us.

What's more, we've stationed doctors and scientists across the five Gulf States to look out for people's health and then to monitor any ill effects felt by cleanup workers and local residents. And we've begun setting up a system to track these efforts -- excuse me, to track

these effects -- and ensure folks get the care that they need. And we've told BP that we expect them to pay for that, too.

As I've said before, BP is the responsible party for this disaster. What that means is they're legally responsible for stopping the leak and they're financially responsible for the enormous damage that they've created. And we're going to hold them accountable, along with any other party responsible for the initial explosion and loss of life on that platform.

But as I said yesterday, and as I repeated in the meeting that we just left, I ultimately take responsibility for solving this crisis. I'm the President and the buck stops with me. So I give the people of this community and the entire Gulf my word that we're going to hold ourselves accountable to do whatever it takes for as long as it takes to stop this catastrophe, to defend our natural resources, to repair the damage, and to keep this region on its feet. Justice will be done for those whose lives have been upended by this disaster, for the families of those whose lives have been lost -- that is a solemn pledge that I am making.

I think I can speak for anybody here, and for anybody who has been involved in the response and the cleanup effort, and for most Americans, when I say that I would gladly do whatever it takes to end this disaster today. But I want to also repeat something that I said to the group as a whole while we were meeting. This is a manmade catastrophe that's still evolving and we face a long-term recovery and restoration effort.

America has never experienced an event like this before. And that means that as we respond to it, not every judgment we make is going to be right the first time out. Sometimes, there are going to be disagreements between experts, or between federal and state and local officials, or among state officials, or between states, about what the most effective measures will be.

Sometimes, there are going to be risks and unintended consequences associated with a particular mitigation strategy that we consider. In other words, there are going to be a lot of judgment calls involved here. There are not going to be silver bullets or a lot of perfect answers for some of the challenges that we face.

Understandably, the feelings of frustration and anger, the sense that any response is inadequate -- we expect that frustration and anger to continue until we actually solve this problem. But in the meantime, we've got to make sure that everybody is working in concert, that everybody is moving in the same direction. And I want everybody to know that everybody here -- at every level -- is working night and day to end this crisis. We're considering every single idea out there, especially from folks who know these communities best.

Admiral Allen announced yesterday, for example, that, after a bunch of back-and-forth between state and federal experts, he is prepared to authorize moving forward with a portion of the idea for a barrier island that may stop some of the oil from coming ashore. We had an extensive conversation about this and -- to see whether additional steps can be taken on this barrier island idea.

And what I told the parish president, what I told the Governor, is that if there is an idea that can be shown to work, then we should move forward on it, and they deserve quick answers. But I also reminded everybody that we've got to make sure that whatever we do is actually



going to work, particularly because we're going to have not unlimited resources, at least not right now. For example, there's a limited amount of boom. We're going to try to get more boom manufactured. But that may take some time, and that means we're going to have to make some decisions about how to deploy it effectively.

The bottom line is this: Every decision we make is based on a single criterion -- what's going to best protect and make whole the people and the ecosystems of the Gulf.

And I want to thank everybody in this region who's rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to help -- from the National Guard putting their experience to the task, to the local officials and every citizen who loves this area and calls it home, every American who's traveled to the region to lend a hand. If any American is looking for ways to volunteer and help, then we've put links to that information on our website, as well -- that's [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov).

And, all these governors -- Bobby Jindal, as well as Charlie Crist and Bob Riley, they want -- and I know Haley Barbour is not here but I think he agrees with this, as well -- one of the powerful ways that you can help the Gulf right now is to visit the communities and the beaches off of the coast. Except for three beaches here in Louisiana, all of the Gulf's beaches at this moment are open, they are safe and they are clean. And so that's always a good way to help, is to come down and provide support to the communities along the coasts.

To the people of the Gulf Coast: I know that you've weathered your fair share of trials and tragedy. I know there have been times where you've wondered if you were being asked to face them alone. I am here to tell you that you're not alone. You will not be abandoned. You will not be left behind. The cameras at some point may leave; the media may get tired of the story; but we will not. We are on your side and we will see this through. We're going to keep at this every day until the leak has stopped, until this coastline is clean, and your communities are made whole again. That's my promise to you. And that is a promise on behalf of a nation. It is one that we will keep.

And I will make one last point -- and I said this to every leader who is here: If something is not going right down here, then they need to talk to Thad Allen. And if they're not getting satisfaction from Thad Allen, then they can talk to me. There's nobody here who can't get in touch with me directly if there is an idea, a suggestion, or a logjam that needs to be dealt with.

So we're in this together. And it's going to be a difficult time, and obviously the folks down here are going to be feeling the brunt of it, but we're going to make sure that we're doing everything we can to get this solved as quickly as possible.

And I want to again thank everybody here for the extraordinary work that they're putting in. You shouldn't underestimate how hard these folks are working, day in, day out, on behalf of their constituencies.

So thank you very much. Thank you, everybody. (Applause.)

Q Mr. President, how confident are you that it will be -- that the leak will be plugged soon?

THE PRESIDENT: All I can say is that we've got the best minds working on it and we're going to keep on at it until we get it plugged.

**Graphic Organizer 2** - This graphic organizer is meant for use with *Article 2, Remarks by the President After Briefing on BP Oil Spill*.

Use the graphic organizer to analyze the text and organize your response. **This is a requirement for completing the project.**

Based upon the information provided in the President's speech, respond to the questions below.

Which points are facts?

Which points are opinions?

How do the points you identified in the boxes above show bias on the issue?

How does the bias you identified impact the reader's understanding of the issue?

Based on your analysis above, what is President Obama's purpose for giving this speech? Include at least one example from his speech to support your answer.

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### **Article 3: Obama Administration Moves Long-Term Gulf Plan Forward**

**Source:** <http://www.restorethegulf.gov/release/2010/09/28/obama-administration-moves-long-term-gulf-plan-forward>

**NEW ORLEANS, La.** — The Obama Administration has put forward an aggressive restoration plan, including a call for dedicated funds, to help strengthen the Gulf region's environment, economy, and health following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The restoration plan, written by Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, was submitted to the President today. A key recommendation in the report is that Congress dedicate a significant amount of any civil penalties obtained from parties responsible for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill into a Gulf Coast Recovery Fund to go toward addressing long-term recovery and restoration efforts in the Gulf. The President has decided to follow this recommendation, and Congressional action is critical to the overall effort.

"I am honored to have been asked by the President to put together this plan, and am pleased to present him a plan which meets the goals he set in June. The plan is the result of listening to the people of the Gulf Coast. It balances the needs of the people, the environment and the economic livelihood of the region," Secretary Mabus stated.

To manage the funds and to coordinate recovery projects, the Mabus report recommends that Congress authorize a Gulf Coast Recovery Council. As designed, the Recovery Council would include representatives from the states and federally recognized Gulf tribes. The Recovery Council would work to ensure that local governments and citizen stakeholders also play a critical role.

The President will not let the recovery process wait until Congress acts to approve the Recovery Council. He soon will sign an executive order to establish the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. A bridge to the Recovery Council, this intergovernmental advisory body will coordinate restoration programs and projects in the Gulf region. It will focus on efforts to create more resilient and healthy Gulf Coast ecosystems, while also encouraging support for economic recovery and long-term health issues. Given her extensive environmental experience, ability to work successfully with stakeholders, and roots in the Gulf Coast region, the President has named Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson to serve as Task Force chair.

"President Obama has said many times that our commitment to the families and environment in the Gulf extends far beyond capping the well. We're sending that message loud and clear today: our work is not complete until the people and the environment they rely on are on the path to restoration and recovery," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "I'm proud to take on leadership of this task force. As someone charged with protecting health and the environment, and as someone who grew up as part of the Gulf Coast community, I welcome the opportunity to make a difference for the people here."

The Task Force will be expected to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services on public health issues and with the Department of Commerce and other federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, on ways to improve the economic impact of ecosystem restoration.

The Mabus report recommends continued support for individuals, families, and businesses

to help them navigate the claims process, and to give assistance to communities to identify additional needs. It urges a media campaign — paid for by the oil spill's responsible parties — to help restore public confidence in the seafood industry and promote tourism in the area. The report examines ways that the Gulf can take advantage of opportunities in emerging industries. The report also identifies critical needs for health and human services across the region and recommends continued engagement with the nonprofit sector.

In June, as the urgent oil spill response efforts were still underway, President Obama tapped Secretary Mabus, a former governor of Mississippi and a son of the Gulf, to develop the framework for long-term recovery. The President was clear that he wanted the plan to come from the Gulf, and not be imposed from Washington on the Gulf. Mabus spent countless hours hearing from thousands of local residents, businesses, and elected officials to create the foundation for this report.

Released Field Test Project

**Graphic Organizer 3** - This graphic organizer is meant for use with Article 3, *Obama Administration Moves Long-Term Gulf Plan Forward*. Use the text boxes to analyze the text and organizer your response. Responses to the prompts are a requirement for completing the project.

List the main points from article 3.



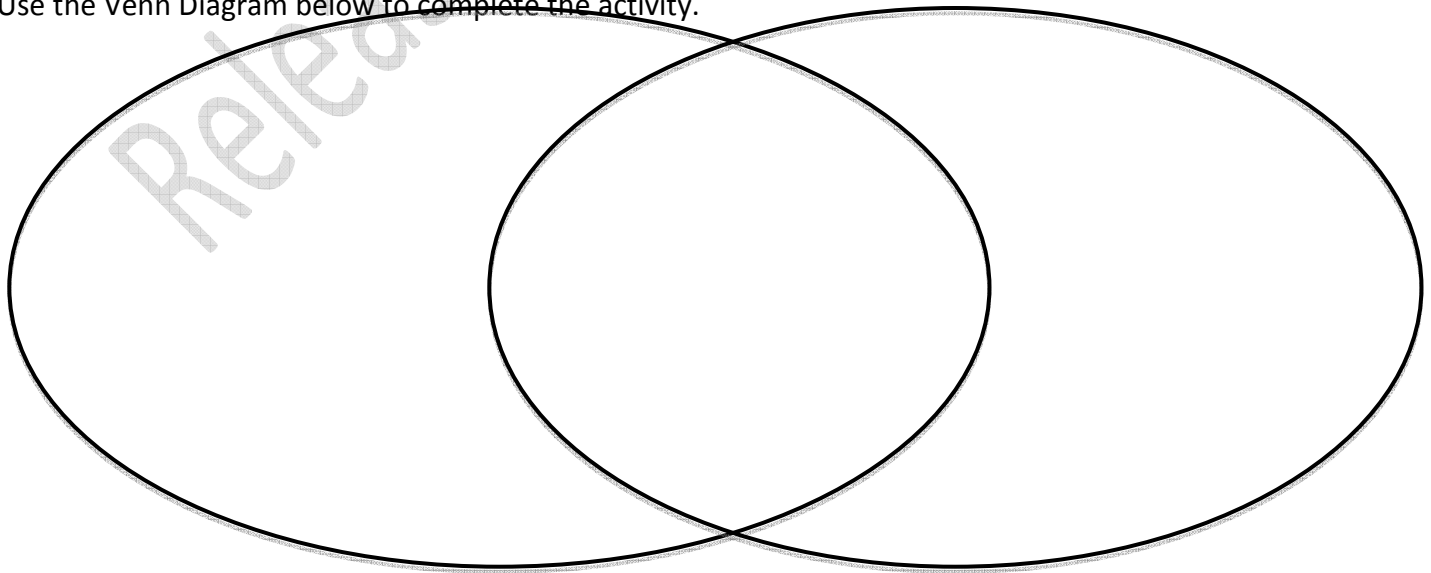
Identify the main idea of this article.



Based upon the main idea, what is the author's purpose? Cite evidence from text to support your response.



Based on your analysis of **"BP Initiates Response of Oil Spill"** (Article 1) and **"Obama Administration Moves Long-Term Gulf Plan Forward"** (Article 3), how are the texts similar and how are they different? Use the Venn Diagram below to complete the activity.



**Article 4: "It's on Congress to Implement BP Oil Commission Recommendations"**

**Source:** <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/compass/2011/01/bp-oil-commission.html>

On January 12, 2011, The National Oil Spill Commission released its final report on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. The Commission was tasked to provide thorough analysis and recommendations in the aftermath of the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history. The Commission was charged by President Obama to determine the cause of the oil disaster and to help improve the nation's



ability to respond to future disasters and recommend reforms to make offshore energy production safer.

We commend the Commission for their comprehensive and timely investigation into the BP oil disaster. We are pleased with many of the recommendations made by the Commission, especially those that demonstrated the need for community involvement and systematic change within industry and government agencies.

We are pleased that the Commission recommended the establishment of a Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC), which will ensure that those who have suffered the worst from this disaster will have a voice in determining how the oil industry operates in the Gulf of Mexico. The Commission also recommended

that 80 percent of the Clean Water Act penalties from the BP disaster must return to the Gulf States to help begin restoration of the Gulf Coast and her communities. A Public Advisory Committee will be instrumental to ensure that these funds are spent on programs that truly help restore the long-term damage done to the Gulf Coast.

In the Commission's findings, use of dispersants were hastily and abundantly used without proper testing. They found that EPA failed to consider the consequences of using the chemical, which has been banned in European countries. We hope this will promote better, scientific, third-party testing before new methods are employed.

We agree with the Commission's recommendation that promotes more congressional involvement, stressing the need for a new independent agency to oversee the current Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) but also monitor any future incidents that may occur.

The Commission found that BP, Halliburton, and Transocean were all responsible for the BP oil disaster and that systematic problems within the oil industry must be addressed to prevent future tragedies from occurring. While these entities must all be held accountable, the Commission highlighted that this disaster could have happened to any drilling operation, and emphasized that better oversight is needed if and when the next disaster occurs.

These recommendations are only valid if they are implemented and acted upon. We need Congress to act to ensure that these recommendations are implemented as soon as possible so that we can help make existing oil drilling safe and responsible in the Gulf of Mexico.

-- Lauren Bertolino, Sierra Club Louisiana Intern

-- Photo by Jordan Macha

**Graphic Organizer 4** - This graphic organizer should be used with Article 4, *It's on Congress to Implement BP Oil Commission Recommendations*. Use the text boxes to analyze the text and organize your response. **The written response is a requirement for completing the project.**

What opinion statements does the author use in this press release? Cite evidence from text.



What do these opinions reveal about Sierra Club's position about the oil spill?



What do the opinions tell you about the author's purpose for writing this press release?



Based on your analysis above, what is Sierra Club's purpose for writing this article? Include at least one example to support your answer.

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(You may want to go back and review GO 1 as you complete this question.)

After reviewing **"BP Initiates Response of Oil Spill"** (Article 1) and **"It's on Congress to Implement BP Oil Commission Recommendations"** (Article 4), which point of view is more convincing? Cite at least one example from the text that supports your thinking.

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