**Text-type:** Factual Recount  

**Purpose:** to inform of significant events in our search for life on Mars.

**Structure:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>The history of human involvement in Mars has been relatively short. Only recently has mankind taken up the challenge to explore the planet Mars and try to find out if it has ever, or could ever support life.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record of Events</td>
<td>Recounted in chronological order</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Event 1**  
Ever since recorded history began, mankind has been fascinated by what lay beyond Earth. Yet it wasn’t until 1971 that an orbiting spacecraft called Mariner 9 observed Mars and found that there were a number of canyons and channels that appeared to have been carved out of the rocky landscape by floods and rivers.

**Event 2**  
Several years later, in 1976, two Viking spacecraft landed on Mars and took samples of soil. Unfortunately for scientists at the time, when they were analysed, the samples showed no evidence of life either then or in the past.

**Event 3**  
But NASA did not end the quest with the disappointment of the 1970s expeditions. Two decades later, in 1995, they sent out the Mars Pathfinder. Upon landing, the Pathfinder sent out a small roving vehicle known as Sojourner, to continue the collection of information. However, Sojourner’s mission was short lived due to technical difficulties.

**Event 4 and 5**  
At the turn of the century, in 2001, NASA sent out another mission known as the Mars Odyssey Orbiter. They followed this up in 2004 with two rovers, the Spirit and Opportunity, which found evidence that water had once existed on Mars.

**Event 6**  
Recently, in July 2008, the NASA spacecraft Phoenix landed on the polar region of Mars. Its mission was to dig up samples of the frozen soil and to heat it up to see if there was water trapped in the soil. The results were positive for water. Now scientists have concrete evidence that water can be found on Mars.

**Re-Orientation**  
It was a crucial discovery that will be certain to lead to more missions to Mars in the future.

**Language Features**

A. **Subject Specific Terminology**

B. **Tense:**  
Past, Present or Future

C. **Person:**  
Third (first & second may be appropriate).

D. **Word Choice:**  
*Verbs:* Relating verbs (is, are) and thinking verbs to express the composer’s point of view  
Emotive/Persuasive (perhaps, must, should, might)  
Judgmental (eg: ‘This clearly illustrates…’)

*Adjectives:* Indicating non-specific numbers in support or against a case eg: Numerous, most, few etc.

*Imperatives:* (Orders / Commands) To indicate that action must be taken eg: ‘We have to…’

*Connectives indicating result:* Thus…, Therefore…, So…

*Words indicating cause:* As a result…, Due to…

E. **Specifications:**  
Words & phrases to contradict the other side of the argument.