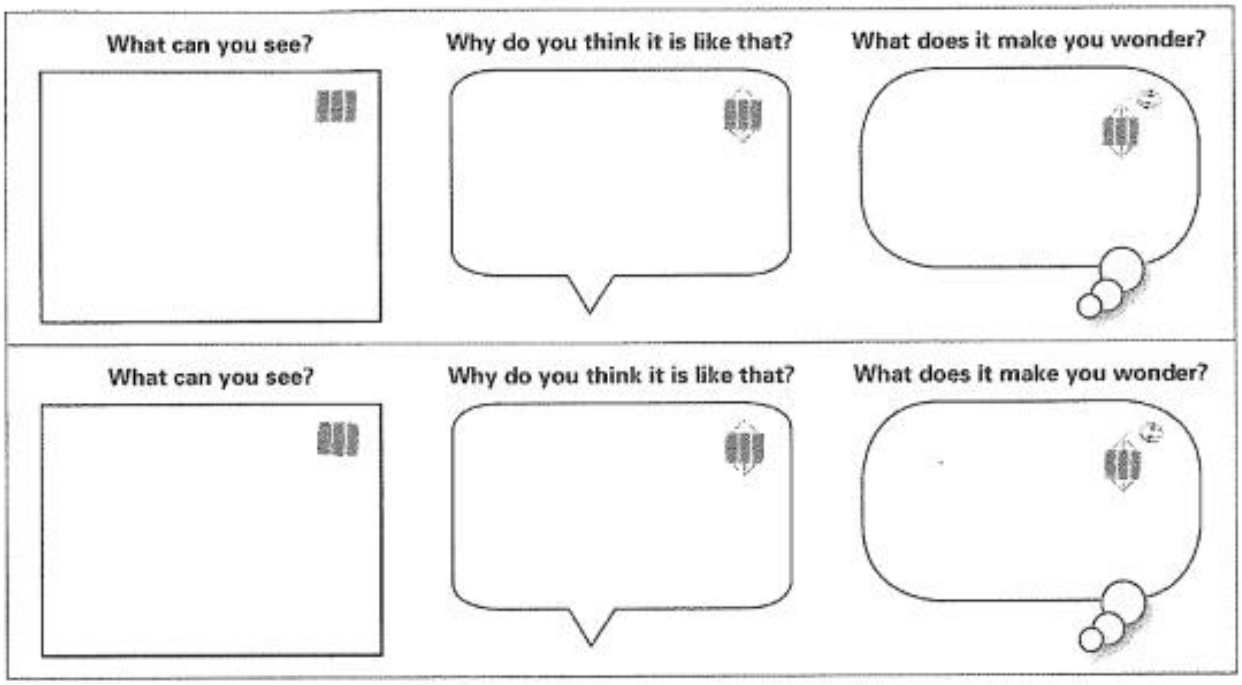
Hooked SOLO Thinking Strips – Image No.1

Tiger Woods pictured in a mugshot May 29, 2017, after an arrest for DUI



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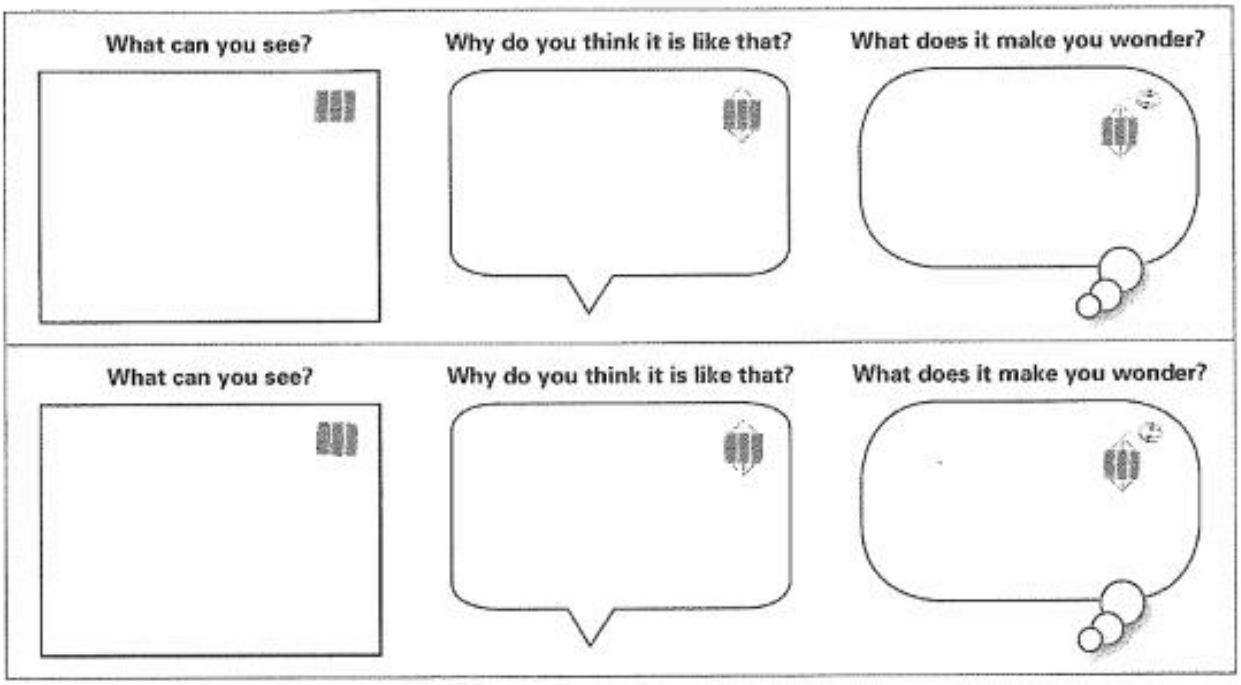

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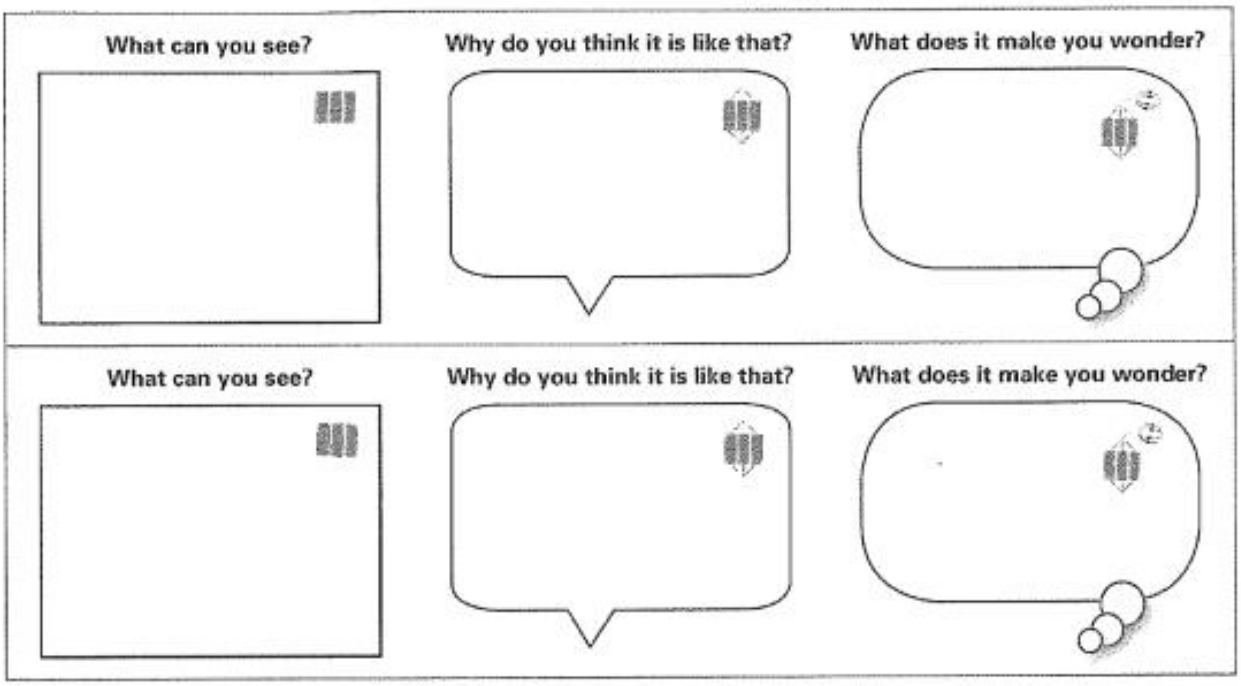
Hooked SOLO Thinking Strips – Image No.3



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Tiger Woods had pain, anxiety, sleep drugs in system during arrest

By Susan Scutti, CNN

Updated 1552 GMT (2352 HKT) August 15, 2017

Tiger Woods blames DUI on pain meds 00:50

(CNN) Golfer Tiger Woods had pain, anxiety and sleep medications, as well as THC, in his system when he was arrested on Memorial Day on suspicion of driving under the influence, according to a toxicology report released Monday by the Palm Beach County (Florida) Sheriff's Office.

A urine test revealed hydrocodone and hydromorphone, two opioid pain medications; alprazolam, prescribed for anxiety and panic disorders; zolpidem, a sedative prescribed for insomnia; and metabolites of alprazolam and of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana. Metabolites are what remains in the body after a person uses a drug.

"Recently, I had been trying on my own to treat my back pain and a sleep disorder, including insomnia, but I realize now it was a mistake to do this without medical assistance," Woods said in a statement Monday. "I am continuing to work with my doctors, and they feel I've made significant progress. I remain grateful for the amazing support that I continue to receive and for the family and friends that are assisting me."

The US National Library of Medicine warns against mixing alprazolam with either hydrocodone or hydromorphone, suggesting that the combination might lead to dizziness, lightheadedness, extreme sleepiness, slowed or difficult breathing, or unresponsiveness. In particular, hydrocodone plus alprazolam may increase the risk of "breathing problems, sedation, coma, or other serious, life-threatening side effects."

Police records indicate that Woods, 41, was found asleep on the side of a road in his 2015 Mercedes-Benz. The engine was running and the brake lights on, with the right turn signal flashing. The front and rear tires on the driver's side had gone flat, with both tire rims showing minor damage.

Police found no crash or property damage.

When he was awakened, Woods' speech was slurred. Dahscam video released by the police show him walking unsteadily when asked to get out of his car; shortly thereafter, he is unsure of what is happening to him. A Breathalyzer registered 0.000 for alcohol.

The police report noted that Woods was cooperative.

Woods said at the time of his arrest that alcohol was not involved and that he had "an unexpected reaction to prescribed medications."

INNAIRD/GETTY IMAGES EUROPE/GETTY IMAGES

In June, the golfer stated on Twitter that he was receiving "professional help" to manage his medications for back pain and a sleep disorder. In July, he said he had completed an out-of-state private intensive program.

Last week, Woods entered a DUI first-offender program, according to a representative for the state attorney in Palm Beach County.

The program typically calls for a defendant to plead guilty to a lesser charge of reckless driving, but no plea was entered on behalf of Woods. His arraignment is set for October 25.

Woods has won 14 major tournaments, second only to Jack Nicklaus. The golfer hasn't played competitively since he withdrew from the Dubai Desert Classic in February due to back spasms.

He underwent fusion surgery on his back this year, his fourth operation since 2014. Woods wrote that "it was instant nerve relief" in a post on his website May 24.

Woods said Monday, "Regarding my back, I recently spoke to my surgeon and he's very pleased with how my fusion is healing. I'm right on schedule. I'm now doing some light lifting, riding a stationary bike and putting a little."

Despite his injuries and pain, he has expressed a desire to continue to play golf professionally.

CNN's Jill Martin, Steve Almasy, Kristina Sgueglia and Rosa Flores contributed to this report.

Traumatic day drug-driver turned man's life upside down

15 Apr, 2017 9:48am

"Shit happens and you've just got to get on with it."

Lance Carter is sitting on a stool in his Ohauiti kitchen, and he's describing the aftermath of a drug-impaired motorist knocking him over and killing his partner and a good mate while they changed a tyre.

"They say I'll be on dialysis in a couple of years," Carter says. "All my organs got crushed and I've got to have a shower three times a day because of all the stuff coming out of my body.

"And I've got a hernia the size of a dinner plate, but hopefully that'll be sorted out soon."

Carter's caregiver has retired to a couch in the lounge and is listening to radio station Coast.

She has a good view from where she's sitting. The house that Carter built on the side of a hill four years ago looks out over Tauranga. On a fine day you can probably see Mauao, but the rain and mist have blocked it out.

"And my right arm could only move like this," Carter says, tapping his fingers on the kitchen bench. "And I had a traumatic brain injury."

The 67-year-old heaves himself up and limps towards the pantry to find some documents related to the court case.

"I'm lucky to be here," he says.

"Full stop."

It was early afternoon on Friday, July 29 last year, when Carter received a phone call from his partner, Leigh Rhodes, saying her SUV had a punctured tyre on State Highway 29A near Baypark.

Carter had been away from his truck-driving job for six weeks to have a bowel cancer operation. He was worried about popping his stitches, so he asked his neighbour Kenny McCrae to give him a hand.

They'd been good mates for 20 years, having both worked in the car industry - Carter had once owned a yard in town.

"We came around and saw Leigh on the side of the road with her hazard lights on," Carter says. "We came and parked in front of her."

Also approaching the scene was Nicole Marie Reynolds, 40, driving a car that was seen to be weaving. A test would later find the class B drug methadone and the class C drugs lorazepam and clonazepam in her blood.

"I came to the drivers' door and said to Leigh, 'Just be careful when you get out'. Next thing I woke up in hospital."

Lance Carter in his home. Photo / Supplied

A police reconstruction filled in some of the blanks. Rhodes had left the vehicle and had been waving a white spare-wheel cover in the air to alert approaching motorists while Carter and McCrae changed the tyre. Reynolds had first struck Rhodes, knocking her 30m down the road, and then hit the two men.

McCrae was killed instantly and Rhodes died in Tauranga Hospital a short time later.

Kenny McCrae

Carter woke up in a bad state, and the news made it worse.

"Leigh hadn't made it, so they brought her to me," he says. "That was hard.

"Then I had to sign a bit of paper for them to fix my ankle. I must have put an 'x' on it like the Treaty of Waitangi. I wouldn't have known what I signed."

He also learned of McCrae's death.

"I'd asked him to help me out . . ."

Carter had been with Rhodes for eight years, but had known her much longer through a mate of his. Both had come out of earlier marriages.

Carter was in hospital eight weeks, initially with life-threatening internal bleeding. His ankle was "in a big case thing for a week" after having a pin inserted.

"You can't do a thing," Carter says. "You have to rely on people to help you - the amazing nurses in hospital who laugh with you, and cry with you, and wipe your bum."

Carter also describes his homecoming in the third person.

"It's a totally different ballgame coming home," he says. "It goes from a physical game to a head game.

"Nobody's there. Your partner's gone."

More than eight months after the crash, he still needs a caregiver to help with cooking, cleaning and transport.

His three daily showers require the removal of a compression sock from his ankle that he is unable to manage by himself.

His caregiver comes over for eight hours a day, but there is some uncertainty over how long this will continue.

Carter's body has healed to the point that he can walk, slowly, but only on flat surfaces. His steep driveway is too much.

"I can usually waddle around on sticks, but if I'm out and the ground is uneven then I just fall over," he says. "I am getting better - when I came out of hospital I was in a wheelchair."

On February 2, Reynolds pleaded guilty to two charges of drug-impaired driving causing death and one of drug-impaired driving causing injury.

She claimed to be on the methadone programme and admitted to taking the anti-anxiety drugs lorazepam and clonazepam, which belonged to her mother, without a prescription.

These drugs, which were known to alter a person's driving skills, were found in Reynolds' system when a blood sample was analysed, the summary of facts said.

Reynolds was sentenced on March 27 to three years and six months in prison. Carter has agreed to receive a letter from her every month.

Carter has a son in Welcome Bay and a daughter in Taupo, both aged in their early 40s, and "some real good mates who support me, help me, but they've got their own lives to live".

He's learned that "life is very fickle - here and gone like that".

Before the accident, Carter had been looking forward to returning to his truck-driving job with Taylor Bros, an employer he says has been supportive.

"Leigh and I had plans, but . . . I need to sit down and think about what I'm going to do."

He brightens up when he remembers that he does have a plan, for early next year.

"My mate from Melbourne and I are going to go to the States and do Route 66," he says. "We're going to get the biggest V8 we can find and just go.

"I've always wanted to do that."

We ask the caregiver to turn down the radio while we shoot a video. When we're finished, she turns it up again.

Coast is playing *Feelin' Groovy*, and it's unclear to what extent this is appropriate. But the rain has stopped falling outside, the mist is lifting from Mauao, and Carter is thinking about his plans for the future.

"Last year was a write-off but 2017 is going to be a far better year," he says.

"It's gotta be."

Tests reveal most crash drivers had taken drugs

27 Aug, 2012 5:30am

By: Nicholas Jones
Political reporter, NZ Herald
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More than half the drivers taken to hospital after causing a crash were found to have drugs in their system, a study has found.
The Ministry of Transport study used blood samples taken from 453 drivers who caused crashes.

Drugs were detected in the systems of 258 drivers, analysis by the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) found.

Of that group, 156 were found to be on drugs not administered by a medical professional

Ninety people sent to hospital had both cannabis and alcohol in their system.

Yesterday, the Automobile Association renewed its calls for random roadside saliva tests to be used to target drug drivers.

Such saliva screening devices can detect only three drugs - cannabis, methamphetamine and Ecstasy - and are used in every Australian state.

Police can only drug-test people if they believe they are under the influence. A blood test is carried out if the driver fails an impairment test.

"We think the majority of drivers driving with illicit drugs are pretty safe from detection, unfortunately," said the AA's Mike Noon.

"They may be caught. But the roadside saliva testing really sends a clear message that if you drug and drive, you could be randomly caught."

But Associate Minister of Transport Simon Bridges said the Government would wait for saliva testing technology to improve before using it.

A government review of the drug testing regime in May concluded the testing devices were not reliable or fast enough to be effective.

It ruled the saliva screening takes at least five minutes, is unlikely to detect half of cannabis users, and results are not reliable enough for criminal prosecution.

"The real factor is reliability ... we can't have innocent people accused of drug driving if they haven't been.

"But as the technology improves, I'm sure in the future we will have a randomised roadside drug test."

Mr Bridges said the new research would be given to the police and Transport Agency to inform the ongoing testing regime.

Another area of concern highlighted by the research was issues with methadone users driving.

"While those on a prescribed stable methadone dosage for treatment should be safe to drive, problems can arise if it is mixed with other impairing drugs, including alcohol."

Drivers with more than the legal limit of alcohol in their system made up just over half of the 453 samples analysed.

Fifty-three per cent of the alcohol group had drugs in their system - with 90 crashes caused by people with both alcohol and cannabis.

The testing showed indications, but not proof, of the use of a drug or one of a drug family.

The presence of a drug in a person's blood does not mean that they were impaired by that drug.