

Problem and Solution Essay

Objectives:

- Research a current issue in American society that might be considered a “problem.” Use library resources to find information to become knowledgeable about the topic.
- Research the various solutions that have been proposed for this problem.
- Summarize the problem and defend one of the solutions.
- Provide adequate evidence to demonstrate that the proposed solution is desirable and effective.

Purpose:

In this essay, your purpose is to briefly summarize what the problem is and then to present and defend a solution to the problem. Thus, you must be knowledgeable on the topic (do thorough research) and use relevant, credible, current sources as support.

Requirements:

- 4-6 pages, typed, double spaced, MLA format
- Write on a topic of your choice, but consider your reader. Would your reader be interested? Would your reader understand? Does the problem affect your reader or people the reader cares about?
- **Format/Organization:**
 - ✓ The thesis must come at the end of the introduction. It must be persuasive in nature and provide a *brief* main point stating what the problem is and how it would best be solved.
 - ✓ You will use your first two body paragraphs to summarize the problem. Offer a few facts to convince your reader that the problem needs addressing. Do not spend more than two paragraphs on the problem.
 - ✓ The rest of your essay should *propose and defend a solution*. In other words, show that the chosen solution is the best solution. Because you’re not an expert doing your own original research on the issue, you’ll have to choose among the solutions that have already been proposed. Which one is most defensible?
- **Sources:**
 - ✓ You must use at least three outside sources. All three of these sources must come from the library in the form of books, ebooks, or articles from a database. **At least two of your sources must be scholarly articles.**
 - ✓ You may have a fourth source containing primary factual/statistical information from an approved website.
 - ✓ All sources you use in your essay must be documented in proper MLA format on a works cited page, which will not count toward your page minimum.
- Incorporate sources wisely. They should be there as support. Your research should not be the focus of your essay. The focus of your essay is your particular thesis – your opinion.
- Proposing a solution requires thought and a fair amount of logic. If the solution were easy, it would have been done already. Give respect to the complexity of the problem by examining your solution from all angles. Think of counterarguments and be prepared to address them.
- Focus on the solution you believe is the best. This solution may have several parts to it, but you should not cover several solutions.
- Write for an academic audience. Use a professional tone.
- Avoid using emotion in place of logical evidence. Avoid bias.

Typed Rough Draft Due: Monday, 4/24 (MW class) or Tuesday, 4/25 (TTh Class)
Final Draft on Turnitin.com via Blackboard: Friday, 5/5 by 11:59 pm