

Problem/Solution Proposal Essay Outline

Due date: Turnitin.com (make sure it is in MLA format) April 10th by 11:59pm. Directions: Research at least three sources (and write and annotated bib for these sources using the templates) and write your essay following the below outline of what to put in each paragraph. Make sure you use in-text and parenthetical citations.

- I. Introduction
 - a. Attention-getter: An apt quotation, a striking example, or a brief anecdote may serve to capture your reader's interest and focus it on the point you plan to make.
 - b. Background information: Historical background of the problem and its development. Most of the problems we will be researching did not occur overnight. There will be a history of events that led to the current situation. When and how did it start? Who is suffering? How many?
 - c. Thesis: This should clearly state the controlling idea(s) of your paper which is based upon explaining a problem and discussing the possible solutions.

- II. Causes of the problem:
 - a. Discussion of contributing and significant causes of this problem. Your research should provide data which may include case histories, examples, statistical evidence or authoritative quotations. Who is causing the suffering? Why?
 - b. Who is benefiting from the situation?
 - c. What national or international policies contribute to the problem? Who is contributing indirectly to the problem by not taking steps to stop it? The only genuine restriction is that the materials presented in the body must provide clear and relevant support for your thesis.

- III. Effects of the problem:
 - a. Laws, regulations, and government programs that directly impact this issue can be effective evidence.
 - b. Discussion of the effects this problem has on society. On people (immediate and long term). On the environment. On the economy.
 - c. What are the short-term and long-term impacts? What does the future hold in respect to this issue?

- IV. Solutions to the problem (this section will be longer than any other):
 - a. What logical solutions have been proposed in the past? How did these work out? Successes/failures.
 - b. What are solutions proposed for the future?
 - c. It would be acceptable for you to make assumptions and offer an opinion or recommend a course of action in addition to those offered by authoritative sources. You may also analyze, evaluate, and explain the most favorable course of action.

- V. Conclusion
 - a. Deductions: What deductions can you logically draw from your research?
 - b. The conclusion that will serve you best is one that briefly pulls together the main points of your essay and reinforces your controlling idea (thesis).
 - c. The conclusion of a problem-solution essay should include a restatement of the problem and the benefits of the proposed solution.
 - d. Call to action –What do you want your reader to do now or to better understand?