

Florida SouthWestern State College
General Education Assessment
CREATIVE Competency: Think
Exemplar Assignment
Submission from Composition I – Technical Emphasis

Problem/Solution Paper Assignment

Objective: The student will write a 1250-1500 word Problem-Solution essay that is researched and MLA formatted.

Minimum 1500 word requirement

MLA formatting and documentation

Works Cited page and parenthetical citations At least 6 sources must be cited.

The Problem/Solution Research Paper

Problem-Solution essay is a paper that starts with defining a dilemma, predicament, intricacy or a problem. It then provides solutions and remedies to the defined problems. The reason why problem-solution essay is so popular in high schools, colleges or universities is because their preparation requires solid writing skills that not all students possess. With the resources available and the following steps, you should be successful.

So how do you write a Problem-Solution Paper?

Please follow these simple steps and, in the end, you will end up with the right paper for your target audience.

1. Define the problem for your essay. The problem can be anything ranging from whale preservation, to Child Abuse, to Teen Prostitution, to the EU ascension by Eastern European countries. It can also be something NOT on a global scale, such as problem in your work place or school. The problem needs to be clearly defined in the essay. Do not forget to utilize the standard brainstorming techniques introduced at the beginning of the semester. REMEMBER, I encourage you to solve any problems created by causal relationships studied in your last writing assignment.
2. Research and analyze. The second part of problem-solution essay deals with analyzing the problem as meticulously as one can. One needs to use the library (or library website) to obtain additional information.
3. Establish criteria for solutions. Since people, societies or our target audience that needs the problem-solution essay is limited in resources (money, time, people, technology), one needs to establish criteria for solutions to the problem. These criteria make the solutions realistic rather than fantastic.
4. Provide possible solutions based on the established criteria. One needs to present several solutions that based on the limiting criteria can resolve the problem or remedy the situation described in the essay.

5. Pick the optimal solution. The solution will be picked based on its costs, resources need, time spent, environmental friendliness and efficiency.
6. Write about its implementation. This final step gives your Problem-Solution Essay the final touch as it shows how the solution can be effective.

Structure of the Problem/Solution Research Paper:

The research paper should be well organized into the following sections:

- The Introduction
 - Identify the problem clearly.
 - Recognize the seriousness of the problem.
 - Present a thesis statement that effectively defines the concern.
 - Support the thesis statement with eye-catching evidences and statistics.
 - Make an impression that you noticeably understand the problem defined.
- The Body
 - Analyze the problem well.
 - Present some background information about the problem to make the reader familiar with the issue.
 - Outline the cause and effect of the problem, but don't focus on this aspect of the essay.
 - Give details about the various causes and propose one or more solutions.
 - Solutions should be realistic and possible, taking into consideration all the limitations in their practical realizations.
 - Sketch out the solutions considered earlier by others for the same problem. Discuss their efficiency and shortcomings discovered so far.
 - Choose the most advantageous solution and support it with valid facts and statistics. Do extensive research on the feasibility of the solution.
 - Cite remarkable examples.
 - Develop a convincing argument for the best solution.
 - Find substantial data and information to support your perspective.
 - Give reasons that make your suggested solution stand up against anticipated objections or doubts.
 - Prove that it is better than other ways of solving the problem.
- The Conclusion
 - Summarize the significant points discussed in the essay.
 - Once again specify the problem and the positive points of your proposed solution.

Problem solution essays focus on the ability of the writer to analyze the problem well and propose a list of possible solutions that are not simply a fantasy but possible to implement practically, keeping in mind the limitations one may have to face. The power to convince the reader so that he is persuaded to think in your favor is the fundamental skill necessary for this purpose.

Some tips:

The strongest argument paper will not only argue its points well, but also find ways to diffuse potential opposition. Think of the opposing arguments like bombs. The bombs will not blow up

in your face if you diffuse them by addressing the opposition's concerns in your paper. Sometimes, it is hard to think about the opposite point of view, especially when you feel strongly about the perspective from which you are arguing. Here are a few hints about how to recognize potential weaknesses in and opposition to your argument.

Make a list of the points of your argument. What ideas represent the opposite points of view? Which of these arguments are likely to be raised against you? Does your argument, or at least the way you described it, rely on specific conditions? For example, will only rich people be able to access the materials or resources upon which your argument relies? Will your argument only work when the sun shines, but fall apart when it rains? Address such conditions in your paper to broaden your argument's application or to narrow the argument's application to a specific group of people or a specific situation.

Research and/or interview a variety of sources to get a sense about how a mix of people feel about your argument and issue. Identify people or groups who support and oppose your argument. Address both arguments in your paper.

One last tip:

-You need to pay close attention to Chapter Twelve of Norton Sampler. This chapter will guide you through the assignment. (There is also a sample Problem-Solution Essay in the module that you need to use as a resource).

Here are some reminders about academic essay writing that I included on the last assignment.

Formatting:

You should use in-text citations for any quotes or paraphrases taken from the claim. Also, you have to include a MLA formatted Works Cited sheet at the end.

Resources for MLA:

OWL website (link can be found in Essay Resources Module) and the McGraw-Hill Handbook. Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, with indented paragraphs, 1-inch margins, a heading, numbered pages, and a creative title. No extra space should appear between paragraphs.

Objectives:

General Education Competencies:

Communication (COM): To communicate effectively using Standard English (written or oral).

Critical Thinking (CT): To demonstrate skills necessary for analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

Learning Outcomes:

Students must demonstrate the ability to write argumentative and/ or evaluative essays. Students must demonstrate the ability to write using correct grammar, word usage, and diction. Students must demonstrate the ability to understand the elements of argument including claims, warrants, fallacies, and picturesque language.

Tone:

You need to maintain an academic tone. Avoid all slang and abbreviations (ad, TV, etc.). Never use second person pronouns (you, your, etc.). First person pronouns (I, me, etc.) can be used if relating an example used as support. For example, if you share details of the first time you saw the advertisement, you can use first person. Do not use it when stating your opinion. “I think,” “I feel,” “I believe,” “I agree,” “In my opinion” and similar phrases are unnecessary. The reader knows it is your opinion. By using first person, you also imply that you are the only one who holds that opinion.

Editing and Revising:

Please do not forget that editing and revising are important parts of the writing process. Edit carefully after setting aside your draft for a minimum of eight hours. One good tip is to read your essay aloud. You will notice things about your writing that would have gone unnoticed if you only read silently. Then, seek feedback. At the college level, you need to receive feedback on your essays before you turn in a final draft. If you are close to one of the FSW campuses, please visit the Writing Center with a rough draft and a copy of the assignment guidelines. Also, as a FSW student, you have access to SmartThinking. The link is in the Essay Resources Module. Send your rough draft to this website and you will receive feedback from an experienced tutor within twenty-four hours. It is also a good idea to send the assignment guidelines along with the rough draft. Also, let me know if you have any specific questions. Another option is to ask an experienced writer to review your essay.

Essay Checklist:

- _ 1250-1500 words
- _ Proper essay structure (Explanation can be found within the Essay Resources Module).
- _ Proper MLA formatting and documentation. Some of the guidelines are mentioned above (double-spaced, etc.).

The information in Module Two will be a helpful review of MLA guidelines. If you need additional help with MLA, please let me know or go to one of the FSW Writing Centers. Lastly, do not forget to keep up with all of the reading since those assignments relate to the essay assignments.

Problem/Solution Paper Assignment Rubric:

Criteria	Ratings				Pts
Thesis	Student's claim is a clear, arguable, well-developed, and definitive statement of position. 30 pts	Student's claim is a clear and arguable statement of position. 23 pts	Student's claim is fairly clear and is a partially arguable point. 15 pts	Student's claim is a clear, arguable statement of position. 5 pts	30
Evidence	All sources are relevant and credible, as well as smoothly incorporated and appropriately explicated. Student clearly and thoroughly explains opposition and persuasively refutes it, if necessary. 30 pts	Most sources are relevant, and credible, as well as incorporated correctly with some explication. Student explains opposition and gives refutation, if necessary. 21 pts	One or more problems may be evident in relevancy, credibility, incorporation, or explication of sources. Student explains opposition and gives minimal refutation, if necessary. 13 pts	Most sources are irrelevant, not credible, and not incorporated or explicated correctly. Student does not include opposition and refutation in paper, if necessary. 5 pts	30
Organization / Style	The writing flows smoothly and logically. It contains an appropriate introduction, conclusion, body paragraphs and smooth transitions between paragraphs. The language is engaging, appropriate, and precise. Sentences are varied and active voice is apparent. 30 pts	The writing is organized logically and flows well. Introduction, body paragraph and conclusion development is evident, but transitions between body paragraphs could be smoother. Language is engaging and appropriate. 21 pts	The writing demonstrates undeveloped organization and logical structure. The writing is clear but could be expressed in a style more appropriate to the academic subject and assignment. 13 pts	The writing is noticeably lacking in organization. There is no clear introduction or conclusion. The writing lacks clarity and the language is not appropriate for the academic subject nor the assignment. There is little or no paragraph structure. 5 pts	30
Grammar / Mechanics	The writing contains sentences that are always complete and grammatically correct, and free of confusion or ambiguity. Punctuation is consistently used correctly. 30 pts	The writing contains sentences that are complete and may exhibit a few minor errors in grammar and punctuation but these do not impair reading. 21 pts	The writing contains grammar and punctuation errors that hinder the flow of the text or distract from the content. 13 pts	The writing is confusing and ambiguous owing to substantial errors in grammar, syntax, and punctuation. 5 pts	30
Documentation	Author follows MLA guidelines for format and documentation (in-text citations and Works Cited page). 30 pts	Author makes an attempt to follow MLA guidelines but makes a few errors. 21 pts	Author makes an attempt to follow MLA guidelines but makes frequent errors. 13 pts	Author makes no attempt to follow MLA guidelines. 5 pts	30
Total Points: 150					