

COMP

3



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Proposing a
Solution

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Understand how to read problem-solution essays
- 2 Describe the problem and solution
- 3 Analyze the problem
- 4 Analyze a persuasive argument
- 5 Write, revise, and edit a problem-solution essay



Understand How to Read Problem-Solution Essays

- Consider the rhetorical situation
 - *Purpose - To describe a problem accurately and present workable solutions*
 - *Audience*
 - People responsible for the problem
 - Decision makers
 - People affected by the problem
 - Public who want information
 - *Topic - Focuses on a broadly regarded problem*



Understand How to Read Problem-Solution Essays

- Consider the reasoning
 - *Accurate description - Writer correctly describes the problem*
 - *Thorough analysis - Writer carefully analyzes the problem and explains why a solution is a best choice*
 - *Rational argument - Writer's claims and appeals for action are thoughtful and presented in an informed voice*

Describe the Problem and Solution

- “Dream act may help local student fight for residency” by Renee Wielenga
 - *Originally a newspaper article that was revised into an essay*
 - *Illustrated problem - Students’ dreams foiled by immigration laws*
 - *Solution offered - Passing the Dream Act*

Analyze the Problem

- “Fatherless America” by David Blankenhorn
 - *Argues that America is losing its understanding of and appreciation for fatherhood*
 - *Statistically analyzes the growth of segment of children who grow fatherless*
 - *Brings about the criticism for the culture of fatherlessness*
 - *Writer says that the results of decultured paternity are a decline in children’s well-being and a rise in male violence*

Analyze a Persuasive Argument

- “Is it now a crime to be poor?” by Barbara Ehrenreich
 - *Proposes that poverty begets crime*
 - *Urges the readers to show compassion & act on behalf of the poor*
 - *Title and the opening paragraph appeal to the reader’s sympathy for the destitute*
 - *Real-life cases used to enumerate the writer’s position show that the poor are often tormented by the police*

Write, Revise, and Edit a Problem-Solution Essay

- Planning
 - *Select and narrow a topic*
 - *Identify and analyze your audience*
 - *Probe the problem*
 - Define the problem
 - Determine the problem's seriousness
 - Analyze causes
 - Explore context
 - Think creatively
 - *Choose the best solution*



Write, Revise, and Edit a Problem-Solution Essay

- Drafting - Outline your proposal and complete a first draft
- Revising - Improve the ideas, organization, and voice
- Edit and proofread the essay
- Prepare and share your final essay

SUMMARY

- Proposals are prescriptions for change
 - *Challenge readers to care about a problem, accept a solution, and act on it*
- Strong proposal offers a logical, practical, and creative argument that leads toward positive change

