Research Paper: Problem/Solution

Definition:
A problem/solution essay identifies a problem (or problems) and then proposes one or more solutions.

Features/Elements:
- Clearly identifies problem(s)
- Proposes solution(s)
- Justifies the solution(s)
- Includes a call for action
- Uses information taken from credible sources
- Cites all sources

How to write an effective problem-solution essay:
- Research your topic so that you draw credible information
- Define and analyze the problem(s). You might tell a story involving the problem(s), compare/contrast it with other problems or evaluate the seriousness of the problem(s)
- Provide any background information necessary to help your reader understand the problem(s)
- Investigate and analyze solution(s)
- Propose solution(s) to the problem(s), either one(s) found in your research or developed yourself
- Provide evidence supporting the solutions(s) proposed
- Conclude with your justification for the solution(s) you chose and a call for action
- Cite all sources (minimum of six sources; not all may be internet)

Sources:
Planning tips: http://www.geocities.com/frankie_meehan/ProblemSolution.htm
How to cite sources: http://www.citationmachine.net
Research Paper: Problem/Solution

6 The paper clarifies a problem and possible solutions, providing extensive and compelling supporting research. The solution is justified and includes a call to action. Organization is unified and logical, using effective transitions. Language use is fluent with well-controlled sentences, clear and effective expression of ideas, and precise word choice. While there may be a few errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and formatting, an outstanding command of language and the topic is apparent.

5 The paper clarifies a problem and provides moderate and relevant details and supportive research for proposed solutions. Organization is unified and coherent, and transitions are used. Sentences are almost always well-controlled, expression of ideas is usually clear, and word choice is often precise. While there may be a few errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and formatting, a good command of language and the topic is apparent.

4 The paper states and supports a problem and solutions with some elaboration, relevant details and supporting research. The solutions may be posed but not adequately justified or may be missing a call to action. Organization is generally effective. Sentences are usually well-controlled, expression of ideas is usually clear, and word choice is appropriate for the topic. While there may be some errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and formatting, a competency with language is apparent.

3 The paper states and supports a problem and solutions with little elaboration, detail or supporting research. Solutions may not be justified and a call for action is missing. Organization is clear enough to follow without difficulty. Sentences are usually well-controlled, expression of ideas is at times awkward and unclear, and word choice may at times be inaccurate or inappropriate. While there may be frequent errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and formatting, a basic control of language is apparent.

2 The paper shows significant problems in one or more areas. It may state a problem and/or solutions, but details and supporting research may be minimal or irrelevant. Solutions are not justified. Organization may lack clear movement or focus, making the writer’s ideas incomplete or difficult to follow. Sentences may often be unclear, expression of ideas may often be awkward or unclear, and word choice may often be inaccurate or inappropriate. Numerous errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, or formatting show poor control of language and may at times impede understanding.

1 The paper has severe problems in one or more areas. The writer may not state a problem or solutions or provide details or supporting research. Problems with organization and lack of focus may make the paper very difficult to follow. A justifiable solution is missing. Sentences may seldom convey meaning clearly, expression of ideas may be very unclear and confusing, and word choice may often be inaccurate or inappropriate. Severe problems with grammar, usage, mechanics and formatting show very poor control of language and may significantly impede understanding.

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<th>Required Elements</th>
<th>Deduction if Missing</th>
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<td>• Cover page</td>
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<td>• Minimum of three supporting points</td>
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<td>• Minimum of six sources (not all internet), Works Cited page and internal citations</td>
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