How does Dell’Antonia guide readers in her article?

She starts with a hook by saying a statement that most people probably would not have thought of when they think of high school seniors graduating. Her hook describes high school graduation to the end of a career that has defined a student for many years. She then leads into how this impacts the student and how what started off as a fun hobby has now morphed almost into professional play. She then goes back to talking about how this impacts high school graduates and ends on the general idea of having to decide what you want to do or not do.

What is the problem she identifies?

She identifies how the shock of losing an integral part of your identity (extracurricular activity) at the end of high school is harmful and how the professionalization of extracurricular activity can be harmful. The former can be seen through a high school graduate describing the loss of certainty of what he would be doing as far as sports is concerned when he described it as “unnerving.” The latter can be seen later in the article where different student who is able to continue her extracurricular activity by majoring in it described feeling “like a spent battery.”

What solution does she offer?

The solution that seems to be offered is to take a chance on things and deciding for yourself what is or is not worth pursuing. This can be seen when a student who was aiming for pre-med decided to switch and become a theater major after taking a class their freshman year and deciding they liked it.