



Functional English

SS150

2+1

COURSE IN CHARGE:


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WEEK # 15

The Problem-Solution Essay

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- ▶ A problem-solution essay is a kind of essay which identifies a problem and then presents a solution to it.
 - ▶ Such type of essays requires extensive research for the development of a strong argument regarding the stated problem whether it needs to be solved or not, and if so, then how.

How to begin writing a problem-solution essay?

1. Identification of the problem
2. Brain storming/ research on the identified problem
3. Understanding the crux of the matter by using critical thinking. This requires an objective point of view.
4. List of potential solutions
5. Compilation of a general essay outline for the visual presentation before writing the first draft.

The structure of Problem-solution essay

These essays follow the conventional essay writing style which involves an introduction paragraph, followed by body paragraphs and conclusion. This essay will have the following essential components:



situation

problem

solution

evaluation

Key point:

- ▶ It is important to include all 4 components in the essay



There are two main ways to structure the problem-solution essays:

- ▶ **Block**
- ▶ **Chain**

Block structure: all of the problems are listed first, and all of the solutions are listed afterwards.

Chain structure: each problem is followed immediately by the solution to that problem.



Both types of structure have their merits.

- ▶ The block format is generally clearer, especially for shorter essays.
- ▶ The chain format ensures that any solutions you present relate directly to the problems you have given.

Sample structure and essay in PDF

Let's practice

Write a problem-solution essay on any one of the following:

- ▶ What are the ways to control inflation?
- ▶ Global climate change may affect the habitat for many animals and cause some species to move into other animals' habitats. What can people do to help?
- ▶ Plastics are polluting the oceans and causing animals to become entangled in these materials. What is a good way to help?

Thank you 😊

