Please write a 5-6 paragraph essay using your own copy of this word document. Please download copy of the shared file and save it and email final copy to [ngonzalez@somersetacademysh.com](mailto:ngonzalez@somersetacademysh.com). Make sure to add your name and period at the beginning of your essay.

**Prompt:** Think about a problem in your community that affects you and your friends. Prepare a brief written report in which you state the problem and offer a solution to it. In your report, make clear to your neighbors why they should also get involved in helping to fix the problem.

SAMPLE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS: Adolescent pregnancy, access to clean drinking water, child abuse and neglect, crime, domestic violence, drug use, pollution, mismanagement of resources, lack of funding for schools and services, ethnic conflict, health disparities, HIV/ AIDS, hunger, inadequate emergency services, inequality, jobs, lack of affordable housing, poverty, transportation, violence, racism and police brutality.

*QUICK CHECKLIST TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE ADDRESSING IN YOUR ESSAY.*

*I understand that:*

\_\_\_Communities, like people, try to solve their problems

\_\_\_Analyzing those problems helps in their solution

*I have taken into consideration the following criteria for analyzing the problem:*

\_\_\_Frequency of the problem

\_\_\_Duration of the problem

\_\_\_Scope or range of the problem

\_\_\_Severity of the problem

\_\_\_Legality of the problem

\_\_\_Perception of the problem

*I understand the reasons to analyze the problem:*

\_\_\_To better identify what the problem or issue is

\_\_\_To understand what is at the heart of a problem

\_\_\_To determine the barriers and resources associated with addressing the problem

\_\_\_To develop the best action plan for addressing the problem

*I understand how to analyze a community problem:*

\_\_\_State the problem, in general terms

\_\_\_Give some specific examples of the problem

\_\_\_Think of some possible reasons or causes

\_\_\_Find the most probable reason

\_\_\_Identify some possible solutions

\_\_\_Choose the best solution

\_\_\_Implement that solution

\_\_\_Evaluate the solution

*I understand the value of analyzing community problems:*

\_\_\_Analyzing community problems can be hard work

\_\_\_Real community problems are likely to be complex and hard to solve

\_\_\_When I look for reasons and underlying causes for significant problems, I'm likely to find more than one

\_\_\_The problem may not only have more than one reason; it may have more than one solution too

*I have taken into consideration the following common criteria for the best possible solution:*

\_\_\_Cost

\_\_\_Time

\_\_\_People

\_\_\_Obstacles

\_\_\_Impact

*I have asked the following questions to measure impact of the problem and its potential solution:*

\_\_\_How many people will be affected/ will benefit?

\_\_\_For how long will they benefit? How long will the solution last?

\_\_\_How intensely will they benefit -- what is the extent of impact on their lives?

\_\_\_Are there any possible unanticipated consequences or side effects?

\_\_\_What is the community's preference?

\_\_\_What is the likelihood of success?

*I have asked the following questions about the likelihood of success:*

\_\_\_What is the best evidence that this solution is going to work?

\_\_\_Where has this solution been tried before, and what has been the outcome?

\_\_\_What does expert opinion say on the probability of this solution being successful?

\_\_\_Have there been research studies showing that this solution works, or is likely to work?

\_\_\_Does my situation match others where this solution has been successful?