



A stylized illustration of a rocket launching from a globe. The rocket is composed of several rectangular sections outlined in blue and green, with a blue flame at the top. It is launching from a globe at the bottom, which is also outlined in blue and green. The globe features a small blue circle with a white 'X' and a small blue circle with a white 'O'. A red speech bubble with three horizontal lines is positioned to the right of the globe. A green speech bubble with three horizontal lines is positioned to the left of the rocket. A red line with a small red circle at the end extends from the top right towards the rocket. The background is white with a blue diagonal stripe in the bottom left corner.

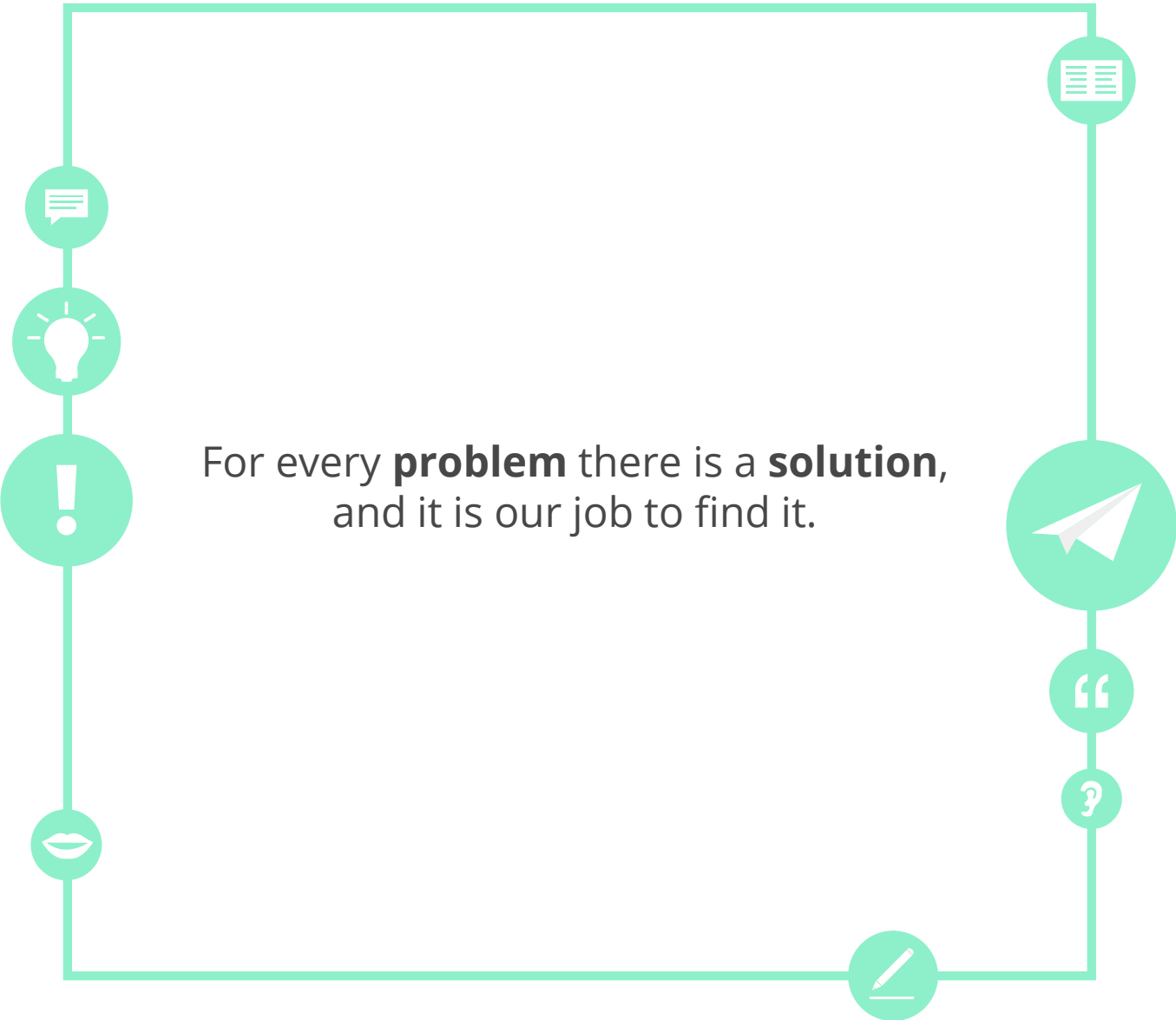
**LANGUAGE**  
English



## Goals

- Can identify and explain the structure of a problem-solution essay.
- Can successfully write a problem-solution essay and present my own solution within a given context.





For every **problem** there is a **solution**,  
and it is our job to find it.



## Writing a problem-solution essay

In this lesson you will learn how to **plan**, **structure** and **write** a **problem-solution essay**.



The **solution** to this **problem** is clear.



## How would you solve these problems?

Your least favourite song is stuck in your head.

No one in Starbucks ever gets your name right.

Your food goes out of date before you can eat it all.

Your clothes are creased but you hate ironing.



## First world problems

What do you think of the problems shown on the previous page?

Not very big, are they?

In English, people colloquially refer to these kinds of problems as **first world problems**.



## Solutions and examples

Here are a few **solutions** which you can apply to any problem, and examples for the problems on the previous page.

Solution	Example
Add something or take something away	Buy less food
Educate	Spell out your name in Starbucks
Motivate	Reward yourself with a biscuit for every shirt you iron
Compromise	Only iron those things which are on show
Create something new	Make up new words to that annoying song



Use the ideas on the previous page to help solve these problems



You love fizzy drinks but they're really unhealthy

You love napping but still feel tired afterwards





## Big question

**What problems are there in  
your society that you would  
like to address?**

**Have you already thought of  
solutions?**



## Academic vocabulary review

**to elaborate**

**noteworthy**

**considerable**

**to assume**

**significant**

**to speculate**

**additionally**

**criticism**



It is reasonable to conclude that...

It is important to note...

Remember that in **academic writing** you should avoid using 'I' as much as possible, and instead focus on **impersonal, passive** structures.



It is reasonable to conclude that criminals would benefit from training in prison.



It is important to note that many ex-offenders are not accepted back into their community.



## Choose a topic

Look at the following slides which review topics you learnt about in this unit. You are going to **choose an essay topic** here.



Do you remember what you studied in this unit?

## Different accents in English

In this lesson you talked about the **plethora** of **regional accents** in English and how learners can try to understand them.



Different English accents are very difficult for learners. How can students overcome problems with accents?

## Beauty standards and feminism

In this lesson you discussed **beauty standards** in different **countries**, as well as how beauty standards have **changed** over the years.

You also looked at how beauty standards and the media **affect women**, and how **feminism** might be reconciled with living up to beauty ideals.

- conform
- adage
- flaws
- enfranchised
- augmentation
- vilified

Photoshopping and airbrushing in the media are creating huge problems for women. What can we do about this?

## Politics and post-truth

In this unit you discussed **politics** and the **post-truth** society. You discussed ideas connected with **censorship**, **lying by omission**, and **refutations**.

Below is your essay question:

**No news is entirely impartial, so we are all reading biased news. How can we solve this problem?**



Gain a balanced view of the world



React rationally rather than emotionally to a claim.

## Wall Street stock exchange

In this lesson, you talked about how the **Wall Street stock exchange** changed the surrounding area and how it got its name.

- You also discussed problems which seem to come from Wall Street, and protest groups, such as **Occupy Wall Street**.
- stark contrast
- high stakes
- prime location
- democracy
- income

The Wall Street stock exchange generates vast amounts of money and creates jobs. However, it is also accused of perpetuating inequality in the USA. How can Wall Street clean up its image and reconcile its contradictory impacts on the world?



## Consumerism

In this unit you discussed the concept of **consumerism** and its effects on **economics** and **society**.

Your essay question is:

**Consumerism is having a negative effect on society and the environment. How can we fix this?**



Consumerism is seeking fulfilment through material goods.



A country is better off economically if the society consumes large amounts of goods.



## Talk about the topics

**Which of the topics do you remember the best from the past unit? Do you have strong feelings about any of the essay questions?**



[illegible]



## What is a problem-solution essay?

A **problem-solution essay** is one in which you are presented with a problem in the **title** or the **question** of the essay. Your job is to write about that **problem** and to come up with some **solutions**.



One **solution** to the problem of the increase in crime is...



## Writing an introduction

- Your **introduction** should be **clear** and **concise**.
- In the introduction you need to mention:
  - An **overview** of the problem
  - **Why** it is a problem
  - **Who** should be concerned about it

### Phrases for introductions

Nowadays, crime is increasing...

These days there is no doubt that crime...

Society is becoming increasingly concerned...

There is no doubt that crime is increasing...





## Sample introduction

**Many criminals leave prison only to reoffend. What can we do to stop this cycle?**

**There can be no doubt** that a large number of criminals who serve their first sentence in prison commit more crimes upon their release. This is a problem for both society in general and for the government, since high crime rates not only result in an unsafe society, but in high expenditure from the cost of solving crime and punishing criminals.

**On the next page, write the introduction to your essay with the help of your teacher.**



## Your introduction

**Write your introduction here**

Nowadays,...

It is a common trend that...

Society is becoming increasingly  
concerned about...

A vertical stack of lined paper with punch holes on the left side, intended for writing the introduction.



## The middle section

- The **middle section** of your essay should be divided into two parts:
  - The **problem**
  - The **solution**
- Immediately after your introductory paragraph, write one or two paragraphs outlining the problems in detail.
- The next paragraphs should state the solutions to these problems.

Writing in lists	Adding more to an earlier point	Introducing examples
firstly/secondly/thirdly	moreover/furthermore	for instance
to begin	additionally/in addition	such as/like
next/then/finally	besides/also	namely





## The middle section

It is important in your middle paragraphs to:

- **Describe causality:** explain why the problem is happening.
  - When thinking about **cause and effect**, think of the problem as the effect. The original **cause**, or the factors contributing to a problem, are useful in determining a solid solution.
- Use correct phrases to **describe steps and measures** to be taken as a **solution**.

Describing causality	Proposing steps and measures
therefore, consequently, because of this	to overcome this problem
may have caused, could be leading to, has led to...	this can be dealt with by
the reason for this is...	it is vitally important that
owing to, as a result of...	the first step would be to



## The middle section

**Read the example below of the middle paragraphs of a problem solution essay. What are your general thoughts on the structure and writing style?**

**Firstly**, one of the main contributory factors is that whilst in prison, criminals are not given the chance to reform their character. They mix only with other criminals, effectively creating a 'school of crime', in which first time offenders may learn tricks from older, more established criminals. They are not given the chance to reform their moral character, nor are they taught skills to help them in the world outside prison. **Secondly**, on leaving prison, many ex-criminals find it difficult to get a job **owing to** their record or their lack of practical skills. Consequently, this leads them back to crime as a way of supporting themselves and perhaps their families. **Additionally**, they are also often isolated in their communities, and may turn to substance abuse.

There are two compelling solutions to **overcome** the problems exposed in the previous paragraph. **The first step would be** to ensure that while in prison, criminals are given the opportunity to pursue training and educational programmes which will provide them with skills useful in the outside world. **It is also vitally important** to make sure criminals have access to support after they have been released from prison. **For instance**, a liaison officer would do a great deal to help stop people reoffending. This officer could work with ex-criminals, helping them stay away from drugs and alcohol, and ensure they have access to healthcare and safe housing,.



## The middle paragraphs

Now, write your middle paragraphs.





## The conclusion

- **Conclusions**, like introductions, should be **clear** and **concise**.
- You must **summarise** what you have already written.
- You should **never introduce a new idea** in the conclusion.

- In conclusion,
- To conclude,
- In summary,
- To summarise,
- To sum up,





## The conclusion

**To summarise**, there are two major measures which could be taken to stop the problem of reoffending among criminals released from prison. **It is reasonable to conclude that** education will pave the way for offenders to reintegrate into their communities. It should furthermore allow them to support themselves in a legal manner, while furnishing them with greater support after their release will help to ensure they stay away from crime.





## The conclusion

Now, write your conclusion.

To summarise,



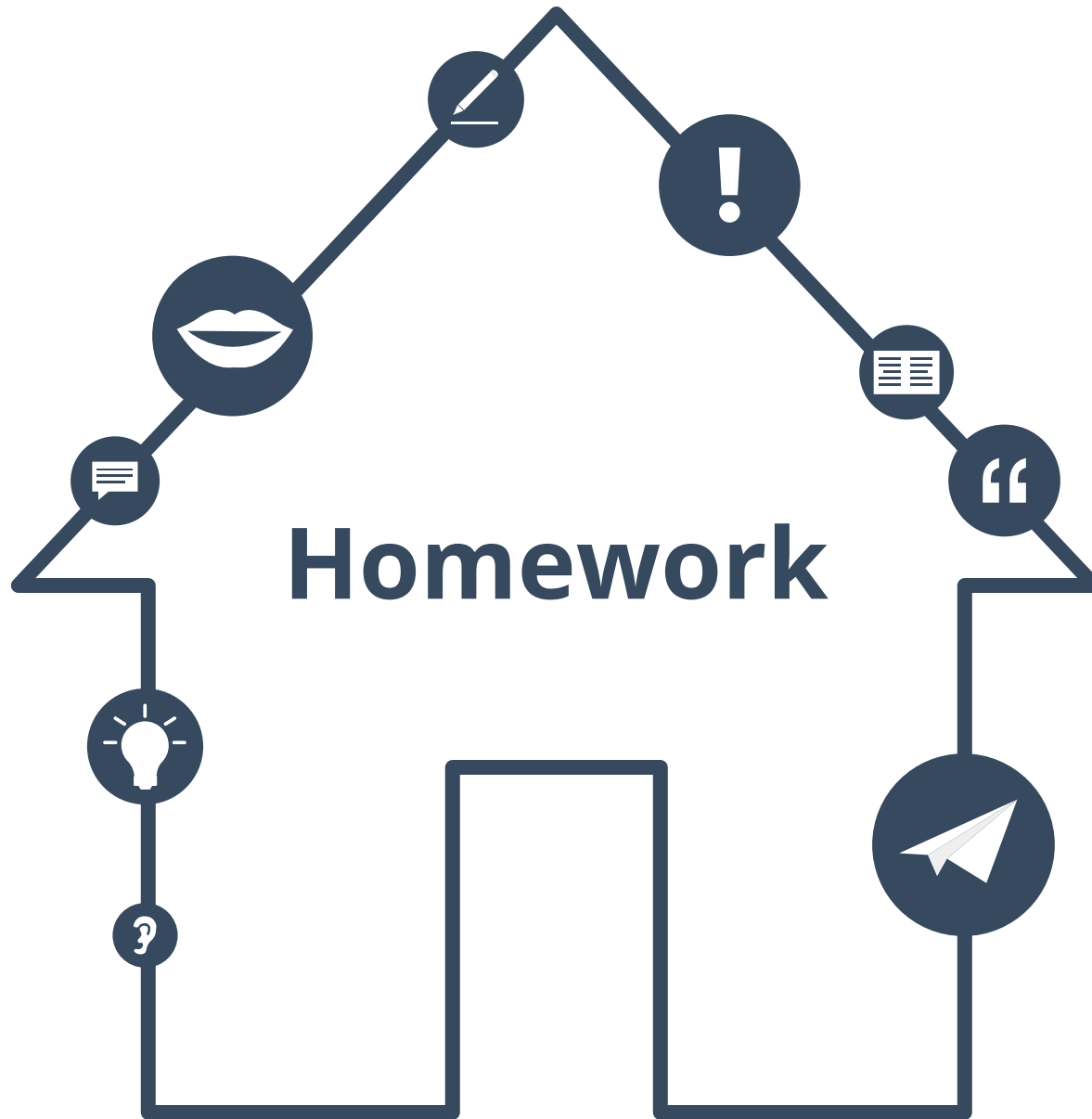


## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!









## Brainstorm

**Choose another topic that interests you from the lesson and brainstorm problems and solutions.**

Problems

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Solutions

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## Write a problem-solution essay

**Now, write a problem-solution essay using your notes above.**

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<input type="radio"/>	There can be no doubt that...
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