



# Problem/ Solution Essay



# Definition

- A problem solution essay requires you to investigate a problem, examine alternative solutions, and propose the most effective solution using supporting evidence.



# Components of Essay

➡ Problem-solution essays have the following four components:

1. Situation (for short essays included in the Introduction)
2. Problem
3. Solution
4. Evaluation (may be included as part of conclusion)



# Structure

➡ There are two ways to structure a problem-solution essay:

1. Block

2. Chain

## Block

Introduction  
(including 'situation')

Problem 1

Problem 2

...

Transition sentence/paragraph

Solution 1

Solution 2

...

Conclusion  
(including 'evaluation')

## Chain

Introduction  
(including 'situation')

Problem 1  
&  
Solution to Problem 1

Problem 2  
&  
Solution to Problem 2

Problem 3  
&  
Solution to Problem 3

...

Conclusion  
(including 'evaluation')



# Introduction

- Spark interest (use hook/motivator)
- Describe the problem....show not tell why the reader should care
- Logically connect and guide to the thesis statement
- Clearly state your solution (thesis)



# 1<sup>st</sup> Body Paragraph

- ➡ Describe the problem (Who, What, when, Where, Why, and How)
- ➡ Why is it a problem? Why should the reader care?
- ➡ Why do we need to solve the problem?

## 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Body Paragraphs

- ➡ Describe solutions.
- ➡ What are the steps that must be taken for solution to work?
- ➡ Specific details...who will be involved, where, when, how...
- ➡ Feasibility, possible objections





# Conclusion

- ➡ Call to action- convince reader he/she needs to act
- ➡ Remind reader of benefits to solution or significance of the problem