

Argumentative Essays

An argumentative essay is a text where you prove that your opinion, theory or hypothesis about a particular issue is adequate or more truthful than those of others.

A Problem-Solution essay is a type of argumentative essay that, as its name would suggest, explores a problem and its likely solutions.

Problem Solution Essay/Article

Describe the problem
Convince the reader the problem needs solving
Explain your suggested solution
Argue that this is the best solution
Refute objections

BEFORE WRITING:

Step 1: Identify the problem. Sometimes the task rubric will include the problem to tackle. When that is not the case, you will need to identify a problem. Try one of these three options:

- The problem is something that is important to you.
- It is a problem you know a lot about.
- It is a problem you can create a reasonable solution for.

Step 2: Decide on the best solution. Great solutions are:

- Implemented easily.
- Effective at solving the problem.
- Cost effective.

Use the table below to get ideas to solve problems:

Ways to Solve Problems

Solution	How It Works	Assumes Cause of Problem is	Example
Add something	Give more money, people, equipment, or stuff	Lack of resources	More teachers in schools, more money for fire department
Take something away	Remove source of problem	One thing or person causing problem	Fire bad teachers, get rid of poor textbooks
Educate	Give information about the problem and solution	People don't know what to do	Say No to Drugs campaign
Make laws or rules	Create a new law or rule, or reform existing rules	Current rules don't solve problem	School dress code revised to require uniforms
Enforce laws or rules	Provide a way to enforce or else provide more	Current rules are adequate but aren't	School calls parents if students don't adhere

Solution	How It Works	Assumes Cause of Problem is	Example
	resources (like more police or money for regulators) to enforce existing rules or laws	enforced	to dress code
Change method or procedure	Change the way something is done or organized	Something isn't being done the right way	Change meeting time from Tuesday morning to Saturday to get more people to come
Motivate	Use advertising or emotional appeals to get people to do or not do something	People know what they should do, but don't do it	Anti-smoking ads
Build something new	Give new facilities or organization	More buildings or a new organization is needed because nothing currently existing will solve problem	Build a new football stadium to encourage fan support
Work out a compromise	Get opposing sides together to work out a mutual agreement	Problem is mostly lack of agreement	Trade agreement talks between countries
Adapt a solution that works	Take a solution that worked somewhere else and apply it to this problem	Current solution does not fit problem	Adding taxes on cigarettes decreases smoking, so put a tax on unhealthy snack foods
Change leadership	Get rid of current leadership and put someone new in charge	Leader is the problem	Fire college football coach
Change attitudes	Present information or incentives to change the way people feel about situation	Attitudes are causing problem	Parents give children money to do chores

Consider the following when you write your essay:

- State your argument clearly
- Support the argument with solid evidence (research your topic so your evidence is convincing)
- Base your argumentative essay on pros and cons
- Use good transition words/phrases
- Don't overdo your language and don't bore the reader. And don't keep repeating your points!
- Remember the rules of the good paragraph: one single topic per paragraph, and natural progression from one to the next.
- End with a strong conclusion.

Sources: <https://owlcation.com/academia/How-to-Write-a-Propose-a-Solution-Essay> <https://access-socialstudies.cappelendamm.no>