Problem-Solution Essay

Apply the Rubric

A strong problem-solution essay . . .

☑ begins by describing the problem and why it matters

☑ presents a logical thesis statement

☑ explains the causes and effects of the problem

☑ proposes several solutions

☑ supports the best solution with details and explanations

☑ connects ideas with transitions

☑ has a tone that suits the audience and purpose

☑ uses precise words to express ideas

☑ varies sentence beginnings

☑ concludes with a summary of the problem and the best solution

Ask a Peer Reader

• Why is this problem important to me?

• Which of my ideas need better logical connections?

• What other solutions to this problem can you think of?

Avoid Logical Fallacies

Circular reasoning—supporting a statement merely by repeating it in different words ("Access to the pool is crucial because it is really, really important.")

Either/or fallacy—suggesting that there are only two choices in a situation that really offers more options ("Either the pool is free for everyone or our summer vacation is ruined.")

Overgeneralization—a generalization that is too broad to be valid ("Everyone loves to swim, so the pool should be free to all.")

Check Your Grammar

Use correct singular or plural verb forms with indefinite pronoun subjects.

Everyone is excited about the pool. (singular)

Most of the pool area is paved. (singular)

Most of the swimmers pay the fee. (plural)

Many of the swimmers pay the fee. (plural)

See page R66: Indefinite Pronouns as Subjects

Writing Online

PUBLISHING OPTIONS
For publishing options, visit the **Writing Center** at ClassZone.com.

ASSESSMENT PREPARATION
For writing and grammar assessment practice, go to the **Assessment Center** at ClassZone.com.

Giving an Oral Report

In Unit 8, you read nonfiction that described a variety of problems, and you wrote a problem-solution essay. To inform people about a problem that bothers you—the one you wrote about or a different one—present it as an oral report.

Planning the Oral Report

1. **Choose the points you will cover.** Find out to whom you will be speaking, what audience members already know about the problem, and how long you are expected to speak. Think about what questions your listeners might ask and how you will answer them.
2. **Find visuals to include.** Collect or create drawings, photographs, maps, charts, spreadsheets, or other graphics to make your report more interesting and informative.

> **Possible Solutions to Pool Fees**
>
> Raise taxes. ☹
> • Taxes are already high.
> • People will never agree.

3. **Practice presenting your report.** Run through your report several times in front of a practice audience. This practice will help you weave your visuals into your presentation and smooth out your delivery.

Delivering the Oral Report

1. **Relate to your audience.** Be relaxed and look directly at your audience when speaking. Move your eyes around the room so everyone feels included.
2. **Speak loudly and clearly at a natural speed.** Don't be afraid to pause to think or take a breath.
3. **Use gestures and facial expressions.** Move your arms, hands, and head to stress what you are saying. Facial expressions can also convince listeners that you care about the problem.
4. **Ask for feedback.** Invite listeners to tell you what they thought of your presentation. Listen carefully to their comments and use them to improve your next oral report.