

What is a Problem-Solution Essay?

Worksheet

A Problem-Solution Essay presents a problem and then proposes realistic solutions, requiring clear structure: introduction (problem statement), body paragraphs (solutions with reasoning), and conclusion. It's scored on task achievement, coherence, vocabulary and grammar.

Questions

1. Which best describes a Problem-Solution essay?

- A) Analyzes why a problem exists
- B) Identifies a problem and proposes solutions
- C) Compares two different approaches
- D) Discusses historical causes

2. How many body paragraphs are recommended?

- A) One
- B) Two or three
- C) Four
- D) Five or more

3. What should you avoid in solutions?

- A) Examples
- B) Vague or unrealistic proposals
- C) Counterarguments
- D) Topic sentences

4. What is the purpose of examples in body paragraphs?

- A) Fill word count
- B) Illustrate how the solution works
- C) Confuse the reader
- D) Repeat the problem

5. Prompt: Many young people are unemployed. What problems does this cause? What are the solutions?

6. Prompt: Plastic pollution is a major problem. What can governments and individuals do?

7. Prompt: Urban overcrowding creates housing shortages. How can cities address this?

8. Define: What is a Problem-Solution Essay in IELTS Task 2?

9. Define: How many body paragraphs should you write?

10. Define: What should your introduction include?

Answer Key

1. B) Identifies a problem and proposes solutions — Problem-Solution essays require both problem identification and solution proposals.
2. B) Two or three — Two well-developed paragraphs (one solution each) allow depth without repetition.
3. B) Vague or unrealistic proposals — Vague solutions (e.g., 'people should try harder') lack credibility and evidence.
4. B) Illustrate how the solution works — Examples make your solutions concrete and demonstrate understanding.
5. Introduction: Define youth unemployment + impacts Body 1: Lack of industry jobs → solution = government retraining programs Body 2: Skills mismatch → solution = vocational education partnerships Conclusion: Restate solutions + expected benefits
6. Introduction: State plastic pollution crisis Body 1: Government action → ban single-use plastics + penalties Body 2: Individual action → reduce consumption + support alternatives Conclusion: Combined effort needed
7. Introduction: Define housing crisis in cities Body 1: Solution 1 → expand public transport + development zones Body 2: Solution 2 → incentivize remote work + affordable housing Conclusion: Multi-faceted approach required
8. An essay where you identify a problem and propose one or more solutions with reasons and examples.
9. Typically 2 paragraphs — each focusing on one solution with explanation and example.
10. Hook, context, and a clear statement of the problem you will address.

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