

PROBLEM-SOLUTION ARGUMENTS

In most arguments, we create a claim and support that claim with viable support (evidence/proof).

In a Problem-Solution argument, we look more carefully at problems and solutions.

CLAIMS

Claims are different in Problem-Solution arguments versus conventional arguments, where we claim something like this:

We should do something because _____.

Next, we base reasons on evidence (facts, testimony, etc.)

Example:

Universal healthcare should exist, because it is right.

Then, we cite the high numbers of people without access to healthcare.

Next, we might support the argument with other information, such as case studies of people without access (and their horrendous plight).

ELEMENTS OF A PROBLEM-SOLUTION ARGUMENT

The elements of a Problem-Solution argument are similar to a conventional argument, although as mentioned above, there is more focus on developing and examining the nature of the problem, and there is more emphasis placed on advocating for a solution.

Here is the breakdown of a Problem-Solution argument (with simple tasks and questions to help you to create one). Note the various headings which help to organize (or arrange) the content visually and textually.

INTRODUCTION

- Identify the problem
- What is the setting
- What is the problem (describe in depth)
- What is the cause?
- What is the effect?
- How many people are affected?

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Has anyone tried to rectify or solve the problem before (who, how, when)?

SOLUTION

- What is the solution?
- How does your solution work?
- What are the steps to implementing it?
- Convince the readers your solution is the best and will work by showing that the solution is feasible (easy to do and effective).
- Is your solution easy to implement? How and why?
- How can your solution be put into practice?

-Where would the resources for your solution come from? (How will you pay for it?)

REBUTTAL

-How is your solution better than those tried in the past?

-What are the advantages of your solution and the disadvantages of the past Problem-Solutions?

CONCLUSION

-Reemphasize the problem and the effects of the problem.

-Make strong recommendations or advocate for your strongly for your solution.

-Discuss the rewards of solving the problem.