Mrs. Lamothe
English 8

Due Date:
Assignment: Identify a topic connected to your realistic fiction choice, and then compose a problem/solution essay based on information you gather from credible sources.

Specifications: Typed, double-spaced. 12 point font, 3-4 pages (honors) 2-3 pages (non-honors).
     Works cited page that includes a minimum of: 1 book, 1 web page (.gov, .org, or .edu) and 1 database. **NO Wikipedia, please.**

Definition: What is a Problem Solution Essay? A Problem Solution Essay is exactly what it sounds like: an essay that **Presents a problem AND argues for a solution.**

Being able to identify and solve problems in the workplace and in everyday life are essential skills for all productive citizens. Problem-solution essays inform readers about problems and propose methods to address the problems. People draft and present problem-solution essays daily in business, government, education, and many other professions.

Problem-solution essays are a form of persuasive writing. In addition to identifying a problem and exploring its ramifications, the writer proposes a solution or solutions, recommends a course of action, and explains the reasons the recommended course of action is the best to pursue. The writer is arguing in favor of following the recommended course of action. Therefore, the writer must be aware of the reader's needs and expectations. Does the reader understand the problem and its seriousness? What other solutions might the reader think of, and what objections might they have to the writer's solution? An awareness of the audience, including their concerns and possible objections, is a central element of all effective persuasive writing.

Ideas for Problem/Solutions Essay

Problem	Examples of Solutions
Bullying on the school bus	- Get to know the bus drivers - Post anti-bullying rules on the buses in kid-friendly language - Bus-driver appreciation day
Litter on the school grounds	- Organize a clean-up day - Talk to the engineers about where to place trash cans - Make posters for hallways
Hunger in Minneapolis	- Collect for the food-shelf - Organize an advisory contest - Research local hunger organizations
World hunger	- Visit the Hunger Site (www.thehungersite.com) - Contribute to America's Second Harvest - Download and play the World Food Program's video game "Food Force"
Shortage of drinking water in some countries	- Give up drinking bottled water - Learn about and contribute to sand dams in desert areas - Participate in World Water monitoring day
Anti-gay bullying and intolerance	- Participate in Gay-Straight Alliance during advisory - Speak up when you hear disrespectful remarks - Work at making sure all kids at Anwatin are included
Kids in elementary schools need to hear books read out loud to become better readers	- Volunteer to read to kids after school - Make books on tape for younger kids to read - Organize a group of volunteers to read at an elementary school
People in nursing homes sometimes get lonely	- Visit nursing homes to make friends - Find a pen-pal in a nursing home - Organize a group to go and visit
People in the neighborhood don't have chances to get together and socialize.	- Organize a carnival for your neighborhood - Participate in National Neighbor's Night Out - Help organize activities at the nearest community center

Organization of Paper

Introduction: (order of items within paragraph may vary; introduction may be more than one paragraph in length)

- Use a hook to gain the reader's interest, perhaps by explaining why he should be concerned or describing the seriousness of the problem

    -Identify the problem

- State thesis

Present Problem: (more than one paragraph in length)

- Describe the problem thoroughly
- Be sure to address the following questions as they apply to the assigned problem, giving examples and explanations of each and supporting answers with research:
    - What caused the problem?
    - Who is affected by the problem?
    - What are the effects of the problem?
    - Why is it important?
    - Where did it begin, or where is it most problematic?
    - When did it become a problem?
    - What background information would a lay reader (not someone in your career area) need to know to understand the issue?
- What factors need to be considered when you think about how to "solve" your problem? What do you need to consider and what are your priorities?

Present Solution(s): (more than one paragraph in length)

- Describe, examine, and evaluate the solution or solutions.
- If you have more than one solution to discuss, place the least acceptable first, then progress in order to the best solution.
- Each discussion of a solution should
    - Identify the solution
    - Go through the pro's and con's
- Anticipate and address any objections or reservations your audience may have.

Conclusion:

- Remind the reader of key points, benefits to your solution, or of the problem's significance.
- Call to action: What do you want your reader to do now or to better understand?

Research Paper: Problem/Solution

6   The paper clarifies a problem and possible solutions, providing extensive and compelling supporting research. The solution is justified and includes a call to action. Organization is unified and logical, using effective transitions. Language use is fluent with well-controlled sentences, clear and effective expression of ideas, and precise word choice. While there may be a few errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and formatting, an outstanding command of language and the topic is apparent.

5   The paper clarifies a problem and provides moderate and relevant details and supportive research for proposed solutions. Organization is unified and coherent, and transitions are used. Sentences are almost always well- controlled, expression of ideas is usually clear, and word choice is often precise. While there may be a few errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and formatting, a good command of language and the topic is apparent.

4   The paper states and supports a problem and solutions with some elaboration, relevant details and supporting research. The solutions may be posed but not adequately justified or may be missing a call to action. Organization is generally effective. Sentences are usually well-controlled, expression of ideas is usually clear, and word choice is appropriate for the topic. While there may be some errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and formatting, a competency with language is apparent.

3   The paper states and supports a problem and solutions with little elaboration, detail or supporting research. Solutions may not be justified and a call for action is missing. Organization is clear enough to follow without difficulty. Sentences are usually well-controlled, expression of ideas is at times awkward and unclear, and word choice may at times be inaccurate or inappropriate. While there may be frequent errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and formatting, a basic control of language is apparent.

2   The paper shows significant problems in one or more areas. It may state a problem and/or solutions, but details and supporting research may be minimal or irrelevant. Solutions are not justified. Organization may lack clear movement or focus, making the writer's ideas incomplete or difficult to follow. Sentences may often be unclear, expression of ideas may often be awkward or unclear, and word choice may often be inaccurate or inappropriate. Numerous errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, or formatting show poor control of language and may at times impede understanding.

1   The paper has severe problems in one or more areas. The writer may not state a problem or solutions or provide details or supporting research. Problems with organization and lack of focus may make the paper very difficult to follow. A justifiable solution is missing. Sentences may seldom convey meaning clearly, expression of ideas may be very unclear and confusing, and word choice may often be inaccurate or inappropriate. Severe problems with grammar, usage, mechanics and formatting show very poor control of language and may significantly impede understanding.

Required Elements	Deduction if Missing
★ Minimum of three supporting points	10%
★ Minimum of 3 sources : Works Cited page and internal citations	10%
★ Format: Typed; Times New Roman 12 pt. font; double-spaced	5%