

Solution Essay

Solution Essay Assignment Description

A **Solution Essay** requires you to employ critical thinking in a practical way to describe how to solve a real-world problem that impacts your community. To define your community, first consider the identities that intersect to make you who you are: where you live, what you believe, your age, race, ethnicity, ability, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, and even your education or employment.

Skim the scholarly articles I provide in the relevant discussion forum and choose one that resonates with you and read it more closely. Then ask yourself (or Google) what solutions you could persuasively argue and support through critical thinking and research; your ultimate goal is to incorporate sources responsibly to argue actionable ways to raise awareness, create policies, or change behaviors as solutions to your initial problem. Your essay should incorporate 6 sources (including the 1 from our school's database I posted in the topic selection discussion) and use rhetorical appeals (logos, ethos, pathos, kairos) to provide a solid foundation for your argument and rationale for your solution(s).

Write in Rogerian argumentation style so that your second paragraph reflects various arguments before you emphasize your thesis

- Incorporate authoritative sources with brief quotations and one example of visual rhetoric to support your thesis.
- Banned sources include: wikis, dictionaries, and politically-biased sites (such as The Daily Wire or Occupy Democrats). Foundational documents pertaining to any government or religion are not to be used either.
- Concede valid points and offer valid rebuttals/counterclaims instead of writing a high school-style 50/50 paper.
- Paragraph content expectations:
 - Paragraph 1, Introduction: Describe the problem and provide background information.
 - Paragraph 2, Counterarguments and Thesis: Concede valid points made by others and offer valid rebuttals/counterclaims; end this paragraph with your one-sentence thesis statement.
 - Rest of Body Paragraphs: Consider feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and political/social climate when evaluating possible solutions and courses of action. Use sources sparingly and give credit clearly.
 - Final Paragraph, Conclusion: Restate main points, describe where further research should focus for greater impact, and reflect on the biggest challenge you faced while learning about this topic
- Narrow the solutions to something that is manageable and suitable for a 5-page (1200 word) argument—your final document will be closer to 9 pages when you include title page, abstract page, and references page.
- Consider feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and political/social climate when evaluating possible solutions and courses of action.
- Use Rogerian rhetorical style. This rhetorical style should be evident in your paragraph's content form while maintaining a clear argument and presentation of a solution(s). The conclusion should summarize the main concepts and ideas; it should also reinforce, without repeating, the introduction.
- Complete peer review, tutor review, and submit workshop papers.
- Consult with CM (that's me) for live, one on one draft feedback over Zoom.

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Rubric Used to Grade Your Solution Essay

Essay addresses the topic fully and contains a thesis statement that argues a clearly-stated point in accordance with the assigned topic. Based on paragraph content expectations, essay is clearly written in Rogerian argumentation style: /25

Essay develops possible solutions to the designated problem in accordance with chosen argumentation style. Solutions are relevant and well developed. Conclusion includes reflection on where further research should focus for greater impact and the biggest challenge you faced while learning about this topic. Body paragraphs are clearly solution focused: /25

Essay contains substantial ideas, content, visual rhetoric, and organization with strong topic and transition sentences. Topic sentences are clearly solution focused: /20

6 or more reliable sources, including the 1 from our school's database I posted in the topic selection discussion, are carefully cited parenthetically within the essay and in a References page according to APA guidelines: /10

Submitted project contains title page, abstract, essay, and bibliography (called References) in APA format.

Argumentative portion of the essay is 5 double-spaced pages (1200 words minimum) in APA format: /10

There are no/minimal errors in grammar, mechanics, or spelling that detract from the analysis. Writing is on college level with precise word choice and varied sentence structure. First person is limited to conclusion without using "I believe" type statements. Word choice is not thesaurus heavy: /10

Evidence of draft review process: YES NO

Late Penalty:

Total Points: /100

Solution Essay Draft Workshop Papers

Use the linked [Self-Evaluation Worksheet](#) and the above rubric to see if your Solution Essay Draft is on the right track. When you complete the peer-review process with your classmates, use the linked [Peer-Evaluation Worksheet](#) to guide fellow writers to a helpful revision.