**Proposing a Solution**

Purpose: essay will propose a solution to a societal problem (local community, national or global). Unlike the “Opposing Viewpoints” informational research paper, this essay is highly **argumentative**. You are convincing us to pursue a precise plan of action or change in thought which you believe is the most effective solution to solving a major problem.

PAPER LENGTH

4-6 pages assessed on the 6 point Parkway Rubric. Worth 100 points.

RESEARCH

3-5 sources required using MLA format. You should consider a mixture of resources which present (A) evidence of the problem’s existence and its effects, (B) arguments for various solutions, and (C) proof of the positive effects if your solution was to be implemented.

SAMPLE PAPERS

It is suggested that the entire chapter of “Proposing a Solution” in the St. Martin’s Guide be read in its entirety. However, only sections of the text are mandatory and will be discussed in class.

BASIC FEATURES

1. **Establish the problem**, its conditions and value to the reader
2. **Describe your** **solution** (thesis) with supporting details
3. **Counter-Argument**: anticipate readers' objections and questions to your solution; also, counter-argue false, ineffective solutions
4. **Additional details**, including possible evaluations of lesser solutions, and evidence of improvements toward your solution
5. **Final insights** about the greater effects your solution would have

**Past Successful “Proposing Solution” Topics from other students**

Environmental topics (waste reduction, fuel/energy sources, etc.)

Overpopulation

College debt crisis

Heroin epidemic

Teen pregnancy

Increase in certain social disorders

Problems with youth

Issues in education

Health issues (obesity, etc.)

Prison overcrowding

Violence, school shootings, etc.

Human trafficking or other criminal enterprises

Unemployment, poverty

Improving public transportation

Online hazing, internet culture

Below is a **proposed outline** for you to consider or alter in your drafting of your essay:

*Stage 1: approx. 1-2 pages establishing our understanding of the problem*

Presentation of the problem (its existence, seriousness, and its causes)

Consequences of failing to solve the problem

*Stage 2: approx. 3+ pages focused on supporting the specific solution you are proposing*

Description of proposed solution

List of steps for implementing the solution

Reasons and support for the solution

Anticipating/acknowledging and countering objections to your solution

Considering alternative solutions and their disadvantages

Restatement of proposed solution and its advantages

TIP: Don't spend too much time on Stage 1 of the outline compared to Stage 2. Some students make the mistake of writing a "report" on their topic, and then Stage 2, the Solution, ends up looking like a conclusion instead of a body argument.

Remember that you must first convince us that the issue is a problem of concern. Then you will propose a solution to solving that problem, and argue against other weaker solutions.