



# Student Help Desk

## Problem-Solution Essay at a Glance



### IDEA Bank

#### Tips for Finding a Topic

##### Look High and Low

Examine your environment and your daily life for problems you can try to solve.

##### Interview

Ask an official of your school or town what kinds of problems he or she faces and how the problems might be solved.

##### Look Far and Wide

Examine newspapers, magazines, and the Internet for ideas about problems outside your own community.

##### Read the Literature

Get inspiration from reading what others have written about problems and solutions. For a real-life account of action on a problem, read *Montgomery Boycott* by Coretta Scott King (*Language of Literature*, Grade 10).



## Friendly Feedback

### Ask Your Peer Reader



- Why do you think I wrote about this problem?
- Describe the solution I recommended.
- What statements or facts did I use to support my argument?
- What information did you find most convincing? least convincing?
- How can I clarify anything that confused you?

## Publishing Options

### Getting Your Solutions Across

#### Oral Communication

- Deliver your essay as a speech to people who can help solve your problem.
- Record your essay for broadcast on your school or local radio station.
- Use hypertext software to create a multimedia presentation of your essay.

#### Print

- Send your essay to a local newspaper as a letter to the editor.

#### Online

- Check out [mcdougallittell.com](http://mcdougallittell.com) for more publishing options.

## The Bottom Line



### Checklist for a Problem-Solution Essay

Have I . . .

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> stated the problem clearly?               | <input type="checkbox"/> provided support for my proposed solution? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> explained why it is important?            | <input type="checkbox"/> used logical arguments?                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> explored all aspects of the problem?      | <input type="checkbox"/> concluded by summing up my proposal?       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> offered one or more reasonable solutions? |   |