

Rating Problem-Solution Pieces

Let's face it, not all problem-solution pieces are created equally! Some are more likely to convince readers to take action than others. Use this handout to rate the overall quality of the problem-solution pieces that you review.

Your Work Is Amazing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your problem-solution piece is amazing. ▪ As I was reading your work, I was completely convinced that there was a real problem that needed to be solved. ▪ You included all kinds of evidence—both about the problem and the potential solutions—and you seemed to take any controversial emotions and opinions into account. ▪ Most importantly, though, you made it seem urgent for me to take action and then provided a set of potential solutions that I can start working on tomorrow.
You Got It
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your problem-solution piece was pretty impressive. ▪ You did a good job convincing me that there was a real problem that needed to be addressed, and you clearly outlined a set of solutions. ▪ I'm not totally convinced that all of your solutions are realistic, though. While they sound good on paper, one or two may prove to be impossible to pull off—either because they are too costly, too impractical, or opposed by too many people. ▪ All in all, there are far more strengths in your piece than weaknesses.
You Are Getting There
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Your problem-solution piece has left me wondering. ▪ You mention a problem that I know is real. In fact, I've heard about it enough times that I really want to take action to help. ▪ You also mention solutions that I'll bet will actually work. They are certainly believable and interesting. ▪ I'd love to see more evidence—both to persuade me that your problem is urgent and that your solutions will work.

Celebrations and Suggestions

1. What can we celebrate about this particular piece? Has the author tackled an issue that other readers will believe in? Are there interesting solutions that just might work? What are they?
2. What suggestions do you have for improving this piece? Are there solutions that seem questionable? Places where you'd like to see more evidence provided? What next steps would you take if this was your work?