

## Organizer for Solution Paragraphs

While the best writers rarely follow scripted templates, they almost always include the same kinds of sentences in their work. Similar to introductions, solution paragraphs in problem-solution pieces include grabbers, backgrounders, elaborators, persuaders and closers. The difference comes in the content shared. Use this handout to craft a draft of a paragraph explaining one of your solutions to an audience.

<b>Organizer for Solution Paragraphs</b>	
<b>Type of Sentences</b> (While these sentences don't HAVE to appear in this order, it's usually the best way to organize your solution paragraphs.)	<b>Possible Sentences</b> (Write more than one and then choose the best!)
<p><b>Grabbers</b></p> <p><b>Grabber</b> sentences are designed to get your audience's attention! They come first in any paragraph on purpose. Without a good <b>Grabber</b>, your readers are unlikely to even consider the problems or solutions that you're suggesting.</p> <p>The <b>Grabber</b> sentences in a solution paragraph must clearly state the solution that you'd like your audience to consider. By starting your paragraph with a clear statement of your solution, you're helping your audience to follow your thinking.</p> <p><b>Sample:</b> "Fighting back against global warming really is as easy as changing a light bulb!"</p>	
<p><b>Backgrounders</b></p> <p><b>Backgrounder</b> sentences are designed to give your audience enough information to understand the topic that you are writing about. In the <i>solution</i> paragraphs of a problem-solution piece, <b>Backgrounder</b> sentences work to describe the solution that you'd like your audience to consider.</p> <p>Remember to keep your <b>Backgrounder</b> sentences focused on one solution. Also, remember that <b>Backgrounder</b> sentences should be neutral. You're just trying to share information here—you're not trying to persuade your readers yet! <b>Backgrounder</b> sentences in solution paragraphs answer the question, "How will this solution work?"</p> <p><b>Sample:</b> "That's because lighting counts for 20% of the electricity that you use in your home and a new type of light bulb called compact fluorescents use 75% less electricity than old-fashioned light bulbs. Changing just one light bulb in your home can save you almost \$25 dollars over the life of the light bulb. Each bulb that you change will also keep almost 400 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere."</p>	
<p><b>Persuaders</b></p> <p><b>Persuader</b> sentences in a solution paragraph are designed to convince your reader that your solution is worth pursuing and has a reasonable chance of succeeding. <b>Persuader</b> sentences can include personal reactions or opinions. They can also include specific examples. <b>Persuader</b> sentences in solution paragraphs should answer the question, "Why does this solution matter?"</p> <p><b>Sample:</b> "Imagine the amount of carbon we'd keep out of the atmosphere if every one of the world's 6 billion residents saved 400 pounds of carbon dioxide each. With almost no effort or experience, we could change the world."</p>	

<p><b>Closers</b></p> <p><b>Closer</b> sentences in the solution paragraphs of a problem-solution piece are designed to convince readers to take action—whether that action is something concrete like making changes in their own life or less tangible like becoming an advocate in favor of the solution that you are proposing.</p> <p><b>Closer</b> sentences in solution paragraphs should answer the question, “What should readers do next?”</p> <p><b>Sample:</b> “The best part of changing light bulbs as a solution for global warming is that if you really care, you can take action today. Just head out to the local Wal-Mart and pick up some compact fluorescent light bulbs!”</p>	
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**Final Drafts:**

<b>Sample Solution Paragraph:</b>	<b>Your Solution Paragraph:</b>
<p><i>Fighting back against global warming really is as easy as changing a light bulb! That’s because lighting counts for 20% of the electricity that you use in your home and a new type of light bulb called compact fluorescents use 75% less electricity than old-fashioned light bulbs. Changing just one light bulb in your home can save you almost \$25 dollars over the life of the light bulb. Each bulb that you change will also keep almost 400 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. Imagine the amount of carbon we’d keep out of the atmosphere if every one of the world’s 6 billion residents saved 400 pounds of carbon dioxide each. With almost no effort or experience, we could change the world. The best part of changing light bulbs as a solution for global warming is that if you really care, you can take action today. Just head out to the local Wal-Mart and pick up some compact fluorescent light bulbs!</i></p>	

**Gathering Feedback:**

*Have a parent or a partner use the questions below to rate the draft of your solution paragraph.*

<b>Question</b>	<b>Your Response</b>
1. What sentence to you like the best in the first draft that you’ve reviewed? Why?	
2. Were there any sentences that left you confused? Which ones were they? How would you have changed these sentences to make them more effective?	
3. Has the author left you convinced that the solution presented is possible? Do you understand how his/her solution is supposed to work? Are practical steps for getting involved suggested? Do you know what to do next?	