

Organizer for Problem-Solution Introductions

Writing about global problems and potential solutions requires a certain style. Writers begin problem-solution pieces by convincing readers that the problem being studied must be addressed and that there are practical solutions worth pursuing. To do so, they use several unique sentences in their writing. They include grabbers, backgrounders, persuaders and closers. This handout will help you to craft a draft of an introduction for your problem-solution piece.

Organizer for Problem-Solution Introductions	
Type of Sentences (While these sentences don't HAVE to appear in this order, it's usually the best way to organize your introduction.)	Possible Sentences (Write more than one and then choose the best!)
<p>Grabbers</p> <p>Grabber sentences are designed to get your audience's attention! They come first in any paragraph on purpose. Without a good Grabber, your readers are unlikely to even consider the problems or solutions that you're suggesting.</p> <p>Consider starting with a question, a quotation, or a particularly convincing statistic that you collected during your research.</p> <p>Sample: "What would you say if I told you that almost 40% of the people in our world are currently living on land that will be under water by the time that your children grow up?"</p>	
<p>Backgrounders</p> <p>Backgrounder sentences are designed to give your audience enough information to understand the topic that you are writing about. In the introduction of a problem solution piece, Backgrounder sentences work to describe the <i>problem</i>, but they avoid giving too much information about <i>solutions</i>.</p> <p>If you haven't specifically mentioned the problem that you are writing about in your Grabber sentence, it is essential to do so somewhere in your Backgrounders. It is also important to be clear and concise so that your readers have a solid understanding of the problem that you are introducing. Don't ramble!</p> <p>Sample: "That's definitely possible considering that 40% of our world's population currently lives within 100 KM of a coastline and our seas continue to rise as a result of global warming."</p>	
<p>Persuaders</p> <p>Persuader sentences are designed to convince your reader that your problem is important and that it must be solved! Persuader sentences often point out to readers the ways that problems are either impacting their lives today or will impact their lives tomorrow. Persuader sentences may also point out that change really is possible as long as people take action.</p> <p>Remember that Persuader sentences in an introduction should focus only on the consequences of the <i>problem</i>, not on <i>solutions</i>!</p> <p>Sample: "If we don't find a solution for global warming, poverty will spread, inland cities will become overcrowded, and people will begin to fight over space. The good news is that with a bit of work now, we can avoid these problems later."</p>	

<p>Closers</p> <p>Closer sentences are designed to introduce readers to your stance on the problem that you are studying. Closer sentences in the introduction of a problem-solution piece should also introduce readers to the solutions that you will be describing in the remainder of your piece.</p> <p>Remember that Closer sentences should list the solutions that you are going to present in order from least important to most important! Also remember that Closer sentences should not give too many specific details about any one solution. Save that work for the remainder of your piece.</p> <p>Sample: “By driving smaller cars, using less electricity and changing the light bulbs that you are using in your house, you can do your part to protect our world.”</p>	
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Final Drafts:

Sample Introduction:	Your Introduction:
<p><i>What would you say if I told you that almost 40% of the people in our world are currently living on land that will be under water by the time that your children grow up? That’s definitely possible considering that 40% of our world’s population currently lives within 100 KM of a coastline and our seas continue to rise as a result of global warming. If we don’t find a solution for global warming, poverty will spread, inland cities will become overcrowded, and people will begin to fight over space. The good news is that with a bit of work now, we can avoid these problems later. By driving smaller cars, using less electricity and changing the light bulbs that you are using in your house, you can do your part to protect our world.</i></p>	

Gathering Feedback:
Have a parent or a partner use the questions below to rate the draft of your introduction.

Question	Your Response
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 addressing this global challenge or controversial issue is important? Do you understand their point of view? Can you name the solutions that they plan to recommend to readers?	