

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.

Rating Problem-Solution Pieces	
Rating	Description
<i>Your Work is Amazing</i>	<i>Your problem-solution piece is amazing:</i> 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—or see my city, state or nation tackle--tomorrow.
<i>You Got It</i>	<i>Your problem-solution piece was pretty impressive:</i> You did a good job convincing me that there was a real problem that needed to be addressed and clearly outlining a set of solutions. There are good details and convincing language provided throughout. I'm not totally convinced that the all of your solutions offered are realistic, though. While they sound good on paper, one or two of the solutions may prove to be impossible to pull off—either because they're too costly, too impractical, or opposed by too many people. All in all, though, there are far more strengths in your piece than weaknesses.
<i>You're Getting There</i>	<i>Your problem-solution piece has left me wondering:</i> 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're certainly believable and interesting, at least. Unfortunately, you haven't shared enough information to convince me to do anything! I'd love to see more evidence—both to convince me that your problem is real and that your solutions will work.
<i>You've Got Work to Do</i>	<i>Your problem-solution piece isn't very convincing at all:</i> To start with, you haven't really convinced me that the problem that you are tackling is all that big a deal. I know that I'm not ready to take action on the issue that you're writing about. I'm also pretty sure that your solutions—which aren't detailed very clearly or supported with any real evidence—just won't work. I'll bet that they're going to cost too much and have a ton of enemies. Now, you might be able to change my mind, but you're going to need to do a ton of polishing before I'll be on board.

Celebrations and Suggestions	
Question	Your Response
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?	
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?	