

PROBLEM SOLUTION
DoDEA Scoring Rubric
Grade 7 and 9

Score Point 6 – Exceptional Achievement

Readers. The beginning engages readers' interest, sometimes by stressing the importance of the problem. The writer is careful to define or identify the situation and the specific problem to be solved. The writer may begin by dramatizing the problem but will eventually refer to readers and state the problem.

The writer continues to be aware of readers throughout the essay, perhaps referring to them directly, acknowledging their objections or reservations, or trying to enlist their support. This awareness of readers is expressed in a natural, even graceful way. The writer seems to understand fully that particular readers must be convinced the problem is serious and that these readers must be convinced to take action to solve it.

The writer may accommodate readers in any of the following ways:

- Addressing readers directly
- Considering alternative solutions readers may favor
- Acknowledging readers' objections to proposed solutions
- Appealing to shared interests or common goals
- Inviting readers to improve writer's solutions or to suggest their own
- Acknowledging readers' experience or expertise

- Assuring readers they really can solve the problem

The writer may conclude by urging readers to take action, asking for their support, making a last appeal, restating solutions, restating consequences of failing to solve the problem, or thanking readers for anticipated cooperation or action.

Problem. The writer presents the problem fully so that readers will understand the nature and seriousness of the problem.

Such strategies as the following are available to writers for presenting a problem:

- Showing that the problem really exists and is serious
- Sketching the history of the problem: how it came about, how it developed
- Exploring reasons why the problem continues to be a problem: what sustains it
- Giving specific examples of the problem or relating anecdotes that illustrate the problem
- Comparing this problem with other problems to help readers understand the nature and seriousness of the problem
- Discussing the present unfortunate consequences of the problem, the immediate effects of the problem, or the results of the problem
- Discussing the long-range consequences of failing to solve the problem

Solution. The writer offers one or more solutions to the problem. Depending on

the problem and situation, the writer may offer specific, definite solutions or suggest tentative solutions in an exploratory way. The writer may list several solutions, but at least one of them is developed or elaborated fully. The writer makes a convincing argument for at least one solution. Nearly all the six-point essays argue for more than one solution.

When writers argue for their proposed solutions, they may use strategies like these:

- Assuring readers the solution really will solve the problem
- Saying the solution will not cost too much
- Saying the solution will not take too long
- Claiming the solution is not too difficult to implement
- Minimizing any other negative consequences of the solution
- Showing readers how to get started on the solution
- Stressing the general benefits of the solution for all (so as not to seem self-serving)
- Outlining steps in carrying out the solution
- Mentioning and dismissing alternative solutions
- Weighing and accepting or including alternative solutions
- Mentioning readers' possible objections to the solution

The solutions should reflect the writer's thoughtful commitment to solving the problem and his or her insight into what

readers will and will not do in supporting and carrying out a solution.

Proposals may be ironic or humorous. Scorers should consult table leader about such proposals.

Score Point 5 – Commendable Achievement

Readers. A five-point essay reflects readers' concerns but may lack the consistent focus on readers of a six-point essay.

Problem. A five-point essay may identify and describe the problem in a way appropriate to the intended audience but may not do so as elaborately and imaginatively as a six-point essay.

Solution. A five-point essay offers at least one relevant, well-argued solution to the problem. The best argument for any one solution in a five-point essay may ask the logic and coherence of a six-point essay.

A five-point essay is engaging, energetic, and convincing. It lacks only the balance and force of a six-point essay.

Score Point 4 – Adequate Achievement

Readers. Readers may be mentioned at the beginning but are usually not referred to again until the conclusion. Concern with readers is not as evident as in a five-point essay.

Problem. The writer identifies a problem and discusses it at least briefly.

Solution. A four-point essay will offer at least one moderately developed logical solution. The solution will be relevant to the problem.

Score Point 3 – Some Evidence of Achievement

Readers. Readers may be mentioned but are seldom accommodated.

Problem. A three-point essay identifies a problem.

Solution. The writer may list several relevant solutions, but at least one solution will be developed minimally. Essay may seem perfunctory, flat, or buried.

Score Point 2 – Limited Evidence of Achievement

Readers. Readers may not be mentioned at all, but essay will seem appropriate to the designated readers.

Problem. The writer mentions a problem. May assume the reader knows the purpose of the letter or essay.

Solution. The writer merely lists solutions without support or argument. Solution will seem relevant to the problem. Even though a two-point essay is not developed, it is usually coherent. A two-point essay contains little or no argument.

Score Point 1 – Minimal Evidence of Achievement

The writer is on topic.

Readers. The writer indicates little or no sense of readers' concerns. Could be written for any readers.

Problem. The problem may be difficult to identify.

Solution. The writer may not offer a solution, or mentions a solution that does not seem relevant or logically related to the problem. Solutions are not argued.

Essay is brief, often not coherent.

Score Point 0 – Inappropriate Response

Off Topic.