

Week 13: The problem solving essay

Problem Solving Essay

From the cause OR effect essay, we progress to our final major essay of the term: the problem solving essay. This essay is a natural extension of the previous essay, as you will see shortly.

Note that problem solving is fraught with danger for many reasons. The primary reason can be summed up in one word: ASSUMPTIONS

Here are the stages in problem solving. Once we are familiar with these, we can see the areas where assumptions slip in:

1. Identify a situation
2. Determine it's a problem (by identifying negative effects)
3. Determine causes
4. Propose solutions
5. Defend solutions

Look at where assumptions can slip in:

1. We ASSUME a situation is a problem when it might not be.
2. We ASSUME others agree with us that the situation is a problem
3. We ASSUME causes
4. We ASSUME solutions
5. We ASSUME others will accept our solutions without defending them

The chapter explains more about this, but just remember it's harder than you think to prove a situation is a problem, to prove the causes of that problem, and to prove that your proposed solutions will work.

READING

Chapter 13 in *The Super Compact Guide*

THE PROBLEMS SOLVING ESSAY DISCUSSION FORUM

Once you've completed the reading, go to the Problem Solving Essay Discussion link. Review my opening question and respond, and then respond to at least TWO of your classmates throughout the week.

THE PROBLEM SOLVING ESSAY ESSAY ROUGH DRAFT SUBMISSION FORUM

We have an extra week (actually two, if you include Thanksgiving week) to work on this essay, so the rough draft is not yet due. Stay tuned.

THE PROBLEM SOLVING ESSAY

Again, I want to see an essay related to your work or study in your technical field. If you work in the field, select a problem at your workplace for this essay. If you are not employed in the field, select a problem that you have studied in your coursework to this point.