Problem/Solution Research Paper

Due: March 5, 2015

You will write a formal research paper (4–5 pages) that argues for your preferred solution to the problem you have researched. In your paper, you should provide an overview of the problem, its scope, and the current state of discussion about the problem. However, the main focus of your paper will be on explaining why your preferred solution is the best one available.

You should draw from the research you have done to make your argument. You should refer to at least six credible sources in the body of your paper. The majority of these sources (at least four) should support your position; however, you should include discussion of at least two sources that provide other perspectives. Your paper should also include at least one visual source (with an appropriate caption) to support, enhance, or clarify your argument.

Your paper should be organized with a clear introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The introduction should include a clear thesis asserting the position you are taking. Your body paragraphs should include clear topic sentences and provide examples and details that show how your research supports your argument.

This is a formal academic paper. You should use standard English grammar and conventions and should avoid informal first-person “I” voice. Your paper should be in MLA format and should include both in-text MLA citations and a formal Works Cited page (in addition to the 4–5 pages of argument). Your paper should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1″ margins. Choose a title for your paper that reflects its main ideas.

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| **Category** | **Superior: 20-19** | **Good: 18-16** | **Developing: 15-14** | **Not Yet: 13-10** |
| **Argument** | Your paper presents a focused, thoughtful, and convincing solution to a problem, demonstrating why it is best. | Your paper presents a focused solution to a problem. | Your paper presents a problem but is tentative in proposing a solution. | Your paper does not address the assignment. |
| **Supporting Research** | Your paper thoroughly develops reasons to support your argument by using abundant and convincing evidence drawn from your research. You show considerable awareness of the range of opinion existing on the issue. | Your paper supports your argument by referring to at least six credible sources, including two from alternative viewpoints. | Your paper presents a thin level of research to support your argument. | Your paper presents little if any evidence that you have researched the issue. |
| **Presentation of Research** | You integrate quotations smoothly into your own writing, and you cite other’s ideas properly. You use correct MLA paper format. | You provide citations for any quotations and ideas you have gained from others. You use MLA paper format. | You provide spotty citations for your research. You deviate from MLA paper format. | You do not provide citations for others’ ideas. You do not follow MLA paper format. |
| **Organization** | Your paper demonstrates control and sophistication in organizing ideas to make a point. Your introduction is catchy and compelling. Each paragraph transitions smoothly. Your conclusion highlights the significance of your insights. | Your paper is clearly organized with clear introductory, body, and concluding paragraphs. Each body paragraph is introduced with a clear topic sentence. | Your paper exhibits rudimentary organization but is at times disjointed or lacking in direction. | Your paper lacks organization and cohesion. |
| **Style** | Your paper is professionally presented with a superior level of eloquence and polish. You consistently maintain a formal academic voice. | Your paper is adequately presented and has been proofread. You use an appropriate formal academic voice. | Your paper has occasional distractions because of conventions errors or awkward language use. You occasionally slip from an academic voice. | Your paper is marred by error-ridden language. It is sloppy and appears to be hastily thrown together. Your voice is consistently informal. |