

## 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, which include grabbers, backgrounders, persuaders, and closers. This handout will help you draft an introduction for your problem-solution piece. While the sentences don't have to appear in the order listed in the table, it's usually the best way to organize your introduction. In the final column, write more than one possible sentence and choose the best! In the "Gathering Feedback" portion, have a parent or a partner use the questions provided to rate the draft of your introduction.

Organizer for Problem-Solution Introductions	
Type of Sentences	Possible Sentences
<p><b>Grabber</b> 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. Consider starting with a question, a quotation, or a particularly convincing statistic that you collected during your research.</p> <p>Example: <i>What would you say if I told you that almost 40 percent of the people in our world are currently living on land that will be underwater by the time that your children grow up?</i></p>	
<p><b>Backgrounder</b> 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 problem, but they avoid giving too much information about solutions.</p> <p>It is essential to mention the problem you are writing about in your backgrounders, if you haven't done so in your grabber. Be clear and concise so your readers have a solid understanding of the problem you are introducing. Don't ramble!</p> <p>Example: <i>That's definitely possible considering that 40 percent of our world's population currently lives within one hundred kilometers of a coastline and our seas continue to rise as a result of global warming.</i></p>	
<p><b>Persuader</b> 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 impact 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>	

Organizer for Problem-Solution Introductions	
Type of Sentences	Possible Sentences
<p>Remember that persuader sentences in an introduction should focus only on the consequences of the problem, not on solutions.</p> <p>Example: <i>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.</i></p>	
<p><b>Closer</b> sentences are designed to introduce readers to your stance on the problem. Closer sentences 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 in order from least important to most important, and should not give too many specific details about any one solution. Save that work for the remainder of your piece.</p> <p>Example: <i>By driving smaller cars, using less electricity, and changing the light bulbs in your house, you can do your part to protect our world.</i></p>	
Final Drafts	
Sample Introduction	Your Introduction
<p>What would you say if I told you that almost 40 percent of the people in our world are currently living on land that will be underwater by the time that your children grow up? That's definitely possible considering that 40 percent of our world's population currently lives within one hundred kilometers 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 in your house, you can do your part to protect our world.</p>	

## Gathering Feedback

1. Which sentence do you like the best in the draft? Why?
2. Were there any sentences that left you confused? Which ones? 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 his or her point of view? Can you name the solutions that he or she plans to recommend to readers?