

## Proposing a Solution

### **Deadlines:**

Wednesday, April 1: outline/rough draft for conferences

Monday, April 13: 1500-word peer review draft

Wednesday, April 22: final draft (2000 words and at least eight sources)

**Length:** 2000 words minimum plus a works cited page

**Value:** 25% of final grade

**GOAL:** In your first essay in this course, you began researching a problem in order to gain a better understanding of it. In your second major assignment, you drafted a proposal for how you would use your research to solve that problem. For the final essay of this course, you will continue researching this problem and propose a solution, using your research to support your claim. Like the exploratory essay, this researched proposal will require you to read widely and make connections between texts. However, while the research you did for the exploratory essay was open-ended, for this essay you'll practice using research to propose and support a specific solution to your problem.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Write an essay that presents a problem to a specific audience, proposes a solution to that problem, and justifies the solution. Your *Allyn & Bacon* text makes the distinction between a practical proposal, which "focuses on local, practical problems and generally target[s] a specific audience" and a policy proposal, which "addresses public policy issues with the aim of swaying public support toward the writer's proposed solution" (387). You can choose to write either type of essay, but be sure you keep the specific values and beliefs of your audience(s) in mind.

In arguing for your proposed solution, you'll need to present your position as a claim-with-reason thesis and support that thesis using the tools of argument (e.g. appeals to ethos, pathos, and logos, as well as arguments from principle, consequences, and precedent). You will also need to address relevant counterarguments. Doing so not only strengthens your own argument, but demonstrates that you are part of a truth-seeking debate community by recognizing the arguments of others.

**Your paper must cite at least eight credible sources, four of which must be available via the FIU Library. While this essay can make use of the sources you found for your exploratory essay, you must also use at least four new sources.**

### **GRADING CRITERIA:**

- Does the essay present a problem? Does it successfully convince its audience that a problem exists and that the problem is truly problematic?
- Does the essay propose a clear, practical solution in the form of a claim with reasons? Does it describe the solution in enough detail that the reader can understand how the solution would solve the problem?
- Does the essay justify the solution? Does it show how the solution's benefits outweigh its costs? Does it show why the solution is better than other possible solutions?
- Does it use arguments from principle, consequence, and precedent to generate its reasons?
- Does it support the claim with evidence?

- Does it address relevant arguments against the proposed solution?
- Is the essay easy to read? Is it free of typos and grammatical errors? Have you cited your sources correctly in MLA format?

**FORMAT:** All formal drafts should be typed, double-spaced documents, and all should be submitted to Turnitin.com. Your peer review draft and third/final draft should be prepared according to MLA formatting standards (unless you opt to use APA); they should look like the sample student essay at the end of the MLA section of *The Everyday Writer*. Make sure to cite all sources in a works cited page. Also, include the page number and your name on every page.

**By the end of this unit, you should be able to do the following:**

- Employ rhetorical appeals effectively to create presence for the problem;
- Describe the problem in ways that appeal to the interests and values of the audience;
- Write a well-designed argument justifying a workable solution to the problem;
- Address counter argument by discussing alternatives, rationale, and outcomes;
- Employ an effective document design using appropriate layout, clear headings, and visuals;
- Use conventions of the discipline and/or decision-making group your project addresses;
- Employ editing strategies appropriate to the audience and purpose.