

Problem (Cause) Solution Speech Pattern Overview

Problem-Solution Patterns (from <http://faculty.washington.edu/ezent/impo.htm#PSP>)

A problem-solution pattern divides information into two main sections, one that describes a problem and one that describes a solution. This pattern is typically used in persuasive writing, where the writer's general purpose is to convince the reader to support a certain course of action. The pattern is designed to compel the reader to make some kind of change in opinion or behavior by establishing that a problem exists, then providing a solution. In the problem section, the writer identifies different aspects of the problem being discussed and offers evidence of these problems. In the solution section, the writer identifies a potential solution and supports the effectiveness of this solution over others.

For example, suppose a writer's stated purpose is to persuade his/her readers to ride bicycles as their primary form of transportation. First the writer will attempt to establish that common forms of motorized transportation create compelling problems that require a solution. Then he/she will show how the proposed solution - riding bikes - provides a beneficial alternative to driving.

Problem-Solution Example

I. Problem: Motorized Transportation

1. Increasing traffic congestion
2. Increasing pollution
3. Increasing "road rage" from traffic-related stress

II. Solution: Riding Bicycles

1. Bike riding reduces the number of motorized vehicles in use
2. Bike riding is not a source of pollution
3. Bike riding has physical and psychological health benefits

Common approaches to developing and arranging your outline (from <http://www.myspeechclass.com/problem-solution.html>)

Problem Solution Method:

- Recommended if you have to argue that there is a social and current issue at stake and you have convince the listeners that you have the best solution. Introduce and provide background information to show what is wrong now.

- List the best and ideal conditions and situations. Show the options. Analyze the proper criteria. And present your plan to solve the not wanted situation.

Problem Cause Solution Method

- Use this pattern for developing and identifying the source and its causes.
- Analyze the causes and propose elucidations to the causes.

Problem Cause-Effect Method

- Use this method to outline the effects of the quandary and what causes it all. Prove the connection between financial, political, social causes and their effects.

Comparative Advantage Method

- Use this organizational public speaking pattern as recommendation in case everyone knows of the impasse and the different fixes and agrees that something has to be done.