

Paper 3: What Problem Do You Want to Solve?

Due Dates: The final draft should be submitted in D2L no later than 11:59 p.m. on May 21st.

Your Task: For this paper, I ask simply, what problem in the world would you most like to solve? Therefore, your paper will seek to address an overarching solution or a couple of smaller solutions that can contribute to solving the problem you are addressing. Keep in mind that because this paper will be around five pages long that you should pick a complex problem that you can write on at length. Also, please remember that while this paper will likely require you to do some analysis about your problem within the paper, the paper as a whole is not an analysis like our last paper. Rather than a full dissection of the media you were analyzing in the last paper, this paper will require you to give a brief background summary and analysis of the problem you plan to help solve and then will offer solutions for how to combat that problem. As such, your topic should also be a problem you feel can be fixed (or at least that the damages of your problem can be limited in scope).

You will **need to provide at least two major claims and one counterargument** in the paper. Depending on your problem, these areas might fit differently into the assignment. For instance, if you are proposing a large umbrella solution with component parts, your two claims will likely be two steps to addressing the overarching solution. If you are providing multiple possible solutions to a large scale problem, your two claims will likely be wholly different solutions. The counterargument can either be an alternative solution to the problem that you are not in support of or it can be an argument against the solution you are proposing. Also, please note that if you need more than two major claims, you are free to use as many as you need to fully develop your essay.

Format and Length: This paper should be in **MLA format** (Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced) and should meet a **minimum of 1500 words** (about 5 pages) **not counting the Works Cited page**. Please include your word count under the date in your header. Furthermore, you are **required to use at least three sources** to back up your claims and counterclaims from the [Opposing Viewpoints in Context](#) database that can be accessed from the library's website or by following the link above. Your audience is an audience of scholars. Therefore, the tone should be academic in nature.

Grading Criteria: Remember this paper will count for 30% of your final grade in the class.

- **Content** (25 percent):
 - An original and relevant topic
 - A clear thesis statement
 - Definitions of any relevant terms you are using.
 - A well-thought out summary and analysis of the context for the problem you are addressing.

- Two major claims for the solution you are proposing.
 - One counterargument.
 - Well-developed introduction and conclusion that work together with your claims and counterclaims to bring a sense of unity to the solution you are proposing.
- **Organization** (25 percent):
 - The parts of the paper should be in a logical and reasonable order.
 - The transitions flow freely from one thought to the next.
 - The introduction provides readers with a hook to gain their interests.
 - The conclusion mirrors the introduction and leaves readers with a final thought to ponder well after the essay has finished being read.
 -
- **Relevance of Examples and the Use of Sources** (25 percent):
 - The solutions you are proposing are both rational and worthy of consideration by the reading public.
 - The counterargument provided adequately represents the opposing side, addresses their concerns, and argues clearly and respectfully for why the solutions proposed are better than the opposition's.
 - The sources you are using are trustworthy and reliable.
 - Sources support the argument or counterargument being put forth.
 - Sources are adequately summarized and analyzed using a mix of paraphrases and quotations.
- **Format and Style** (25 percent):
 - The paper is in MLA format with 1" margins, double-spacing, a header, an original title, and a Work Cited page.
 - The paper has few grammatical errors.
 - Sources are properly documented according to MLA format.
 - The tone of the paper is appropriately academic in nature.

Reminders: If you have any further questions about this paper, please don't hesitate to email me at Michael.G.Hilbig@lonestar.edu. I am here to help. Additionally, **The Writing Center is still open for online tutoring. Making an appointment is highly encouraged and will be worth a few bonus points** on your final grade. Follow the link here for more information on online tutoring: <http://www.lonestar.edu/tutoring.htm>. I look forward to reading what everyone comes up with.