

Language & Writing 11

✓ A comprehensive language resource focusing on the forms of writing and the writer's craft: style and conventions.

✓ Includes an in-depth analysis of 7 different kinds of essays: personal, literary comparison, cause and effect, classification, persuasive, problem-solution, and process analysis.

✓ Students focus on polishing their writing for style and correctness with a wide variety of activities and exercises.

Each unit in *Language & Writing 11* focuses on a particular form of writing, beginning with a model of that form.

After analyzing the characteristics of the form, students have a chance to create their own piece of writing. Step-by-step instructions are provided.

Unit 11
Problem–Solution Essay

What is a problem–solution essay?
A problem–solution essay is used to both inform readers of issues associated with a problem, and to persuade them to implement a particular solution (or solutions). This type of essay has a specific organization: first, a problem is identified, and then one or more solutions are provided to solve the problem. In this unit, Cameron Smith looks at a solution to Toronto's garbage problem.

Learning Goals

- ✓ write a problem–solution essay
- eliminate wordiness
- understand and apply the rules of subject–verb and pronoun–antecedent agreement
- learn to prepare for, and argue effectively in, a debate
- use a problem–solution format to create a variety of media
- reflect and build on your learning of a problem–solution essay

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A Better Garbage Solution than Dumping in the Lake
by Cameron Smith


There's a far better, far cheaper way to dispose of the troublesome part of Toronto's garbage—the part that leaches from landfills to contaminate groundwater—than sending it to the Adams Mine in Kirkland Lake.

But a majority of Toronto's City Council has bound itself so tightly to the Adams Mine proposal that, for much of this past year, it has never looked seriously at anything else. The response to this better, cheaper way has been to dismiss it as untried, more risky, impractical, and financially uncertain.

But the frailty of those responses began to be exposed seven weeks ago when the head of the company that provides steam heating for downtown buildings said he was interested in exploring this other way.

That person is Juri Pill, president and chief executive officer of Enwave District Energy Ltd. It took considerable courage for him to say this, because Enwave is half-owned by the City of Toronto, and he must have expected that at least some of the councillors supporting the Adams Mine proposal would be annoyed.

But Pill was expressing interest solely on business principles. Enwave uses natural gas to create steam. But natural gas has a problem: its price is unstable, and currently is rising at a furious clip. Pill would like to get fuel in predictable quantities, at stable prices. It would be good for Enwave; it would be good for his customers.



“The new and better way.” Does this photo add to your understanding of the need for a garbage solution? Why or why not?

206 Persuasion

ANALYZING THE MODEL

- A problem–solution essay identifies a problem and provides a suitable solution (or solutions). Identify the problem and the suitable solution outlined in the model.
- The introduction clearly states a problem or asks a question. This is usually followed by details that analyze the extent of the problem, its effects, and any background information pertaining to its cause. Summarize, in point form, any details from the model that explain the extent of the problem, its effects, and any background information pertaining to its cause.
- The body of a problem–solution essay lists or explains one or more solutions to the problem or question, and the benefits. Also, if more than one solution is proposed, the criteria for assessing the solutions are checked to help you write your own problem–solution essay.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

- Individuals, organizations, businesses, institutions, and governments often face both major and minor problems. Some of the categories used to describe these problems are personal, social, operational, environmental, and political. Working in a small group, make a list of problems that you and other people within your school, community, province, and country are now facing. After you have made your collective list, individually choose problems from the list that interest you personally, and write them in your notebook.

Idea File

Here are some suggestions to help your group develop a list of problems:

- Think about a problem that presently concerns you, your friends, your school, or organizations to which you currently belong.
- Talk to the members of your family about problems they are facing in their workplaces.
- Scan advice columns, editorials, and letters to the editor in local and national newspapers and magazines.
- Listen to radio and television talk shows and news broadcasts.
- Attend a meeting of your town, city, or regional council.
- Contact special-interest groups, art galleries, museums, libraries, environmental organizations, or social agencies within your community to determine some of the problems they are facing.