

Humanities 12 - Proposing a Solution

Your paper must fulfill the following requirements:

- Be 6-10 double-spaced pages
- follow the guidelines of one of the specific guidelines I've listed below
- Use at least three different pieces of evidence from readings, class activities, and films that we go over in class. Honors students must integrate their chosen film, *The Grand Inquisitor*, or *Angels in America* into their argument in some way. Refer to the List of Topics We've Studied posted on my DP under Student Resources to choose these three pieces of evidence
- Use proper MLA in-text citations and include a works-cited page. A handout explaining MLA citation is in your writing folder

Proposing a Solution - Specific Guidelines

In this format, you will make a reasoned argument for a specific solution to a specific problem. I will evaluate the following four features to arrive at a final grade.

- **Well-defined position** - Your first job is to make sure the problem your solution addresses seems important to readers. Some problems are clearly important, but others you might have to show why they are significant through statistics, anecdotes, or examples. You must also frame the problem in such a way that your position and the subsequent solution you suggest all go together.
- **Well-argued solution** – You must have a strong thesis statement that encapsulates the position and states your solution. You must elaborate on at least two concrete reasons to support your solution that convince readers the proposal solves the problem, can be implemented, and is worth the expense, time, and effort. Reasons might include elimination of the cause of the problem, evidence a similar solution has worked elsewhere, the solution is affordable or convenient, or is something stakeholders can get behind. You should support these reasons with at least three references to material we have studied in class.
- **Effective counterargument** – You will need to include at least one potential objection to your position. You will need to accommodate or refute this objection, not simply acknowledge it.
- **Readable plan** – You must have a clear thesis and forecasting statement in your introduction. Paragraphs should have topic sentences. The best papers will use repeated words or phrases to focus the reader and include strong transitional phrases to move the reader from one section of the essay to the next.

Note that I do not assign point totals or percentages to these features above. An essay that is extremely strong on one feature can make up for an area that requires more refinement.

Match these requirements with the general essay standards posted on my DP to understand how I will evaluate your essay.

Here is the checklist I will use to evaluate each feature

Feature	Comments
Well-Defined Position	Shows the problem is important Problem and solution go together Frame the problem appropriately Seems to write with a clear purpose to a defined audience
Well-Argued Solution	Thesis encapsulates the position and states your solution. At least two concrete reasons: At least three references to topics we studied in class within the argument
Effective Counterargument	At least one objection to the argument Provides an accommodation or refutation
A Readable Plan	Thesis and forecasting statement Topic sentences Labels positions consistently Repeats key words to identify agreement and disagreement Uses transitional words and phrases - "For example," "as well as," "Even though."
Mechanics	No comma splices or sentence fragments Correct use of punctuation Writes primarily in active voice, minimizing passive voice Errors do not significantly hinder comprehension

A Note on Topics

The topic you choose should be important, solvable, and be something you care about and want to learn more about. I recommend that you define solutions that are either easy to implement or for which the implementation is easy to explain. Be aware that all solutions come with assumptions. I recommend stating your most important assumptions in your paper and use them to accommodate or refute objections or alternative solutions.

Due: End of class on Monday, November 2nd