**Problem/ Solution Paragraph**

**Problems and solutions**

Problem/ solution writing explains a problem and then proposes one or more solutions to that problem. Often this type of writing requires more than one paragraph.

**Writing about problems**

**How to write a problem paragraph?**

A problem paragraph describes and discusses a problem issue. The topic sentence names the issue you will discuss. The supporting sentences show why this issue is a problem.

**Using conditional structures**

The first conditional is a useful way to talk about both problems and solutions, for example:

1- Fish will get ill if factories dump their waste into streams.

2- If you eat fish from polluted waters, you could get sick too.

**Punctuation note**: No comma is needed when the if-clause comes second, for example:

3- People can become ill if they eat the ill fish.

The event in the if-clause is possible, or is likely to happen. The event in the result clause would logically follow. There are other types of conditional sentences, but first conditionals are the most common in writing about problems and solutions.

**Linking problems with solutions**

**How to link a solution paragraph to a problem paragraph?**

The first paragraph, the problem paragraph, explains the problem. The topic sentence of the second paragraph, the solution paragraph, introduces your solution or solutions. The supporting sentences show how your solution(s) will solve the problem. Use these phrases:

1- In order to solve these problems, …

2- To meet this need, …

3- One answer is …

4- A second/ third/ final answer is …

5- In order to overcome these problems, …

6- One solution is …

7- One thing we can do is …

**Writing Solutions**

After you have brainstormed solutions to your problem, you need to select the best one or ones to write in your solution paragraph. A strong solution clearly and reasonably solves the problem. A weak solution doesn't really solve the problem or is not practical or not logical.