



# Academic Writing

*from paragraph to essay*

# Problem /Solution Paragraphs

- Often more than one paragraph is needed.
- Paragraph 1 explains the problem.
- Paragraph 2 proposes (a) solution(s).
- The **Topic sentence** in Para.1 names the problem.
- Supporting sentences** show why it is a problem.

### 3- Discuss why the following issues are problems

A- Air pollution (E.g. causes health issues)

B- Traffic ( E.g. Delay of workers and students)

C- Overcrowded classrooms (E.g. worse learning outcomes)

D- Smoking ( E.g. Annoying to non-smokers)

E- Social Media ( E.g. rumors and fake news)

# Using Conditionals in P/S Paragraphs

- First Conditionals
- Structure:

If + **Simple** Present, Modal+ Inf.

Modal+ Inf. If +Simple Present

If Clause expresses a possible or probable event;

Result clause expresses a logical entailment

(Note. The result is likely to happen, not inevitable)

# Examples

1- If you take a taxi, you may catch the first train.

You may catch the first train if you take a taxi.

2- If you try your best, you will definitely succeed.

You will definitely succeed if you try your best.

3- If we have enough time, we may talk about your mistakes.

# 4-Complete these sentences

- 1-If you don't use a map when you drive, you could get lost.
- 2- Students will do badly in their exams if they don't get enough sleep.
- 3- If you want to lose weight, exercise three times a week and don't eat junk food.
- 4- If you fly there, it will be faster than taking the train.
- 5- Many arguments can be avoided if you think before you speak.
- 6- I will go to that film if I find someone to go with me.

## 6- Complete these sentences

A- If it rains this weekend, I will not go out.

B- If the library isn't open tomorrow, I will read the book online.

C- If petrol prices increase even more, I may sell my car.

D- If I finish lectures early, I'll call you tonight.

E- If you run your own business, you can make a lot of money.

F- If I am given the new job, I won't go on holiday.

# Conditionals for Exercise 3

- A- If people breathe polluted air, they may get sick.
- A- If we use our cars less, air pollution can decrease.
- B- If traffic is so crowded, we may lose precious time.
- B- If we follow the rules, traffic can go smoothly.
- C- If classrooms are overcrowded, students can get bored.

Teachers cannot evaluate their students properly if the classrooms are overcrowded.



## Air Pollution

Air pollution is an aggravating problem. Industrial cities are increasing which causes the level of pollution to rise. If more cities are established, the level can rise even higher. Cars also participate in the problem; thousands of new cars are added every day. If the number of cars increases, more discharges are released, and if more discharges are released, the air condition can get worse.

# Linking Problems with Solutions

The 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph explain the problem.

The topic sentence of the solution paragraph introduces one solution or more.

Supporting sentences show how the solution(s) will solve the problem.

There are some phrases that we can use to introduce solutions . Among these are:

One solution is ; To meet this need; To overcome this problem; One thing to do is, etc.

# Exercise 10

A-

-1- One solution is to conduct exams in well-equipped, air-conditioned classrooms.

2- Another thing we can do is to talk to them to calm them down during the exam period.

3- A third solution is to give them an experimental exam before the formal one to get them accustomed to the exam circumstances.

4- A final solution is to provide them with specialist psychiatrist advice before they take the exams

## B-

- 1- In order to overcome this problem, parents can try encouraging their teenage children to enroll in social gathering and activities, such as games, parties, and community services.
- 2- Another thing we can do is to take away their mobile phones for some time to force them try alternative hobbies other than electronic games.
- 3- A third thing for parents to try is to get closer to them and build friendships with them and later hang out with them away from phones.

C-

1-To meet this need, we can invite doctors and nurses from other countries , specially poor countries where working in our country would be very profitable for them.

2- Another solution is to establish new medical and nursing schools and encourage high school graduate to join them, for example, by giving them some privileges.

D-

1- One thing we can do is to control what children can watch on T.V.

2- Another solution is to delete channels that show violent material from the T.V. list.

3- A third solution is talk to authorities to urge satellite channels put stricter censorship on what can be and cannot be casted.

# Writing Solutions

Not all solutions that we get after we brainstorm are good, practical, or reasonable; we must choose the one which are so and delete the ones which are not.

## Exercise 11

Topic sentence: I need more money while I am at university

**Borrow money from my friends** .... Weak solution (You have to pay them back, i.e., problem not solved).

**Sell some of my things** ... Ok. (in case you have some extra things that are valuable).

**Ask my parents for money**... Ok. ; parents are always ready to help their children.

**Get a part-time job**... strong; you will make your own money and do not need to pay back anyone.

**Ask my lecturers for money**... weak; it is embarrassing and not generally acceptable.



## Exercise 14

### Topic s: Getting along with a flat-mate

Noisy flat-mate = problem

Make cleaning rota= solution

Flat-mate is messy= problem

Argue about how to decorate flat= problem

Each person decorates half of the flat- solution

Talk each week about concerns= solution