

# Problem-Solution Composition

A **problem-solution composition** identifies a problem or situation that should be changed or fixed. Then it suggests a way to solve the problem.

## Parts of a Problem-Solution Composition

- A topic sentence that clearly states the problem
- Additional sentences that explain the problem and tell how the writer thinks the problem can be solved
- Sentences offering evidence that the writer's solution is the best one and that it will work
- A concluding sentence that restates and reinforces the writer's position

**Topic Sentence**  
States the problem

— We have a lot of clubs at our school. **The problem is that a lot of them are boring. Most students never bother to join them.** What's the solution? I think that a committee

**Writer's idea for a solution**

— of students and teachers should be formed to come up with new ideas for after-school clubs.

**Evidence and Examples**  
Support the writer's position

— **First of all**, kids know what they like. **Just as important**, teachers understand what has the most educational value. If you put the two together, you can make a great club. **For example**, how about a club that would let kids watch

— movies and read books? Kids would list movies that they like. Then a teacher could find good books about the same topic. Teachers could also make clubs about their subjects. Science teachers could help students form an invention club. Social studies teachers could help students set up a model government.

**Other Transitions**  
In the first place  
Equally important  
Most important  
Furthermore  
Additionally  
To sum up

**Concluding Sentence**  
Restates and reinforces the writer's position

— **In conclusion**, I think a group of students should meet with the school board as soon as possible to talk about setting up this committee. If teachers and students worked together, everyone would win.



## **BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING AS A YOUTH**

Age-appropriate volunteering is the perfect way to explore their talents and feel – often for the first time – that they are a part of something larger than themselves. Getting these younger children involved in the community through volunteering is a powerful way to teach them morals and empathy toward others.

Older children and teens benefit from volunteering as well. Recent studies show that children and teens who volunteer are more likely do better in school, avoid engaging in risky behavior, and even graduate from college. The benefits of volunteering also apply to children who volunteer with their parents. Taking part in family volunteering opportunities is a great way for parents to spend time with their children doing something positive for their community.

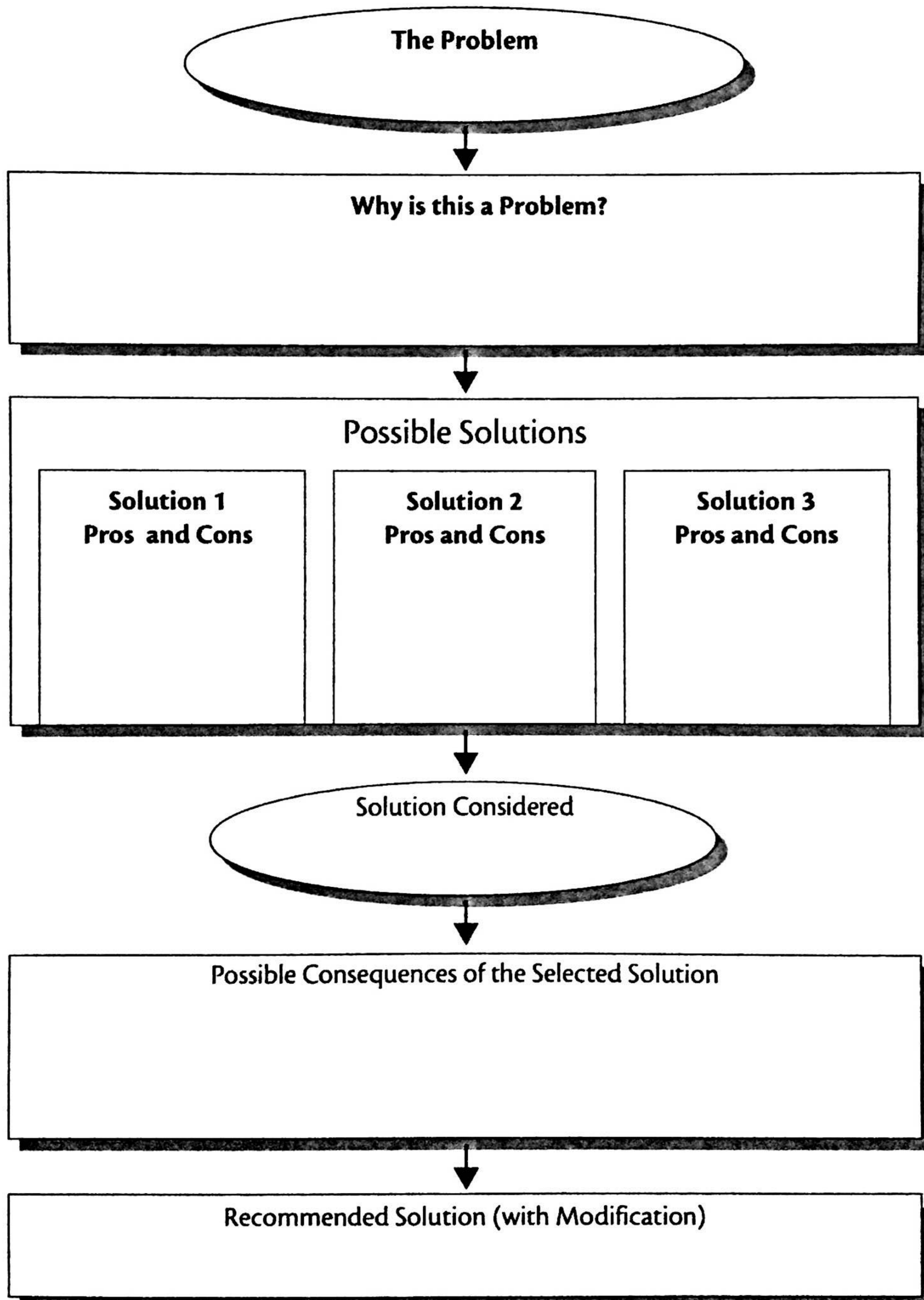
The skills, experience and sense of fulfillment that children and teens develop from volunteering will benefit them in many ways. If you haven't yet, consider enrolling your child in a volunteer activity this summer, and start a pattern of generosity and caring that could continue throughout his or her life.

### **Top 10 reasons students (kids) should volunteer during their free time:**

1. Gain Job Experience.
2. Improve Your Health and Self-Esteem.
3. Meet Real Community Needs.
4. Gain Entrance to College.
5. Meet New People and Establish Friends, Connections and References.
6. Gain New Skills and Develop Talents.
7. Spread Positive Energy and Hope.
8. Make the World a Better Place.
9. Personal Growth.
10. It's Fun!



## Problem-Solving Organizer





Name \_\_\_\_\_

Follow your teacher's directions to complete this page.



Many things could be improved in our community with help from volunteers. The problem is that students who could volunteer don't. To fix this, we should arrange special Saturdays when students can volunteer. First of all,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. For example, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Just as important, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In conclusion, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



On a separate sheet of paper, plan and write a problem-solution composition about decreasing lateness among students.



On a separate sheet of paper, use your prewriting plan to write a problem-solution composition, or plan and write a composition about a rule you think is a problem such as *no inline skates in stores*.