

AP Language: Problem-Solution Synthesis Self-Check List

Introduction:

- Provide a brief context of the problem, stakeholders, past attempts at a solution.
- End your introduction with an argumentative thesis statement

Body Paragraphs:

- Use as many as you need to logically organize your essay
- Start with an argumentative thesis statement.
- Discuss your original thinking/analysis of the solution or idea presented in this paragraph.
- Identify any stakeholders involved in creating/sustaining your solution and those that may be impacted by the solution or the solution's steps.
- Weave in source material AFTER your initial analysis discussion--your voice/idea should control this argument, use the source material to support YOUR thinking.
 - Introduce your source, don't start a sentence with a quotation--give context
 - Make sure you're in control of the conversation and your argument is centered--it is not about fitting in every source like a puzzle. Think of using "what works and leaving the rest."
 - Vary your source integration: full quotations, partial quotations woven into your words, or paraphrases. Variety demonstrates control of your writing and elevates sophistication.
 - Cite your sources in parentheses after the quotation or paraphrase, OR you may introduce the source in the sentence itself using an attribution (*As King argues, "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed"*).
 - You can cite more than one source in a paragraph, just ensure YOUR thinking controls the argument
- Provide counterclaims when appropriate to increase your authority (ethos). Ensure that you always flip the argument back to your side, explaining why your position/thinking is better/more accurate.
 - For this essay, the counter-claims may be past solutions that were not successful or aren't sustainable in some way
- Connect, or "loop," back to your original argumentative thesis statement.

Mechanics/Sophistication:

- Include varied transitions between ideas
- Avoid blanket pronouns like "everyone" or "all people" → specify who you're talking about

MLA Formatting

- The whole paper is in 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced
- Header with last name and page number
- Page 1 writer info, etc
- Title for paper
- All sources are cited
- Works Cited section
- Alphabetized entries in Works Cited
- Hanging indent in Works Cited
- Everything in Works Cited section is cited in paper

- Everything cited in paper is in Works Cited section