Problem-Solution Scoring Guide

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Organization	The introduction clearly states the problem/thesis; the body fully explains the problem and solution(s); the conclusion effectively ends the writing, without repetition; effective and varied transitions are used throughout	The introduction contains a problem/thesis; the body explains a solution; the conclusion brings the writing to a close; transitions are used.	The introduction does not clearly state the problem; the body falters in one more of the following: explaining why the problem is worth considering, giving one or more solutions to the problems, or telling the practical benefits of the solution(s); the conclusion may not effectively bring the writing to a close; few transitions are used.	Organization is difficult to follow: There may be no clear introduction or conclusion. Transitions may not be used.
Elements of Compare/ Contrast Writing	The overall purpose is clear; the problem is defined clearly; why the problem is worth considering is explained; one or more solutions to the problem are laid out; practical benefits of the solution(s) are shared.	The purpose is generally clear; the problem is stated; the solution(s) are presented. Does one or more of the following: explains why the problem is worth considering, gives one or more solutions to the problems, or tells the practical benefits of the solution(s)	The purpose of the writing is not always clear; both the problem and the solution(s) should be more clearly stated and examined.	There is no apparent purpose. The problem is not stated or clear. Solutions may be given but they are not necessarily logical or practical.
Grammar, Usage, Mechanics, and Spelling	There are few or no errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling.	There are some errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling	Errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling interfere with the audience's understanding of the process.	Serious and numerous errors in mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling make understand the essay very difficult.
Style (Voice/Word Choice)	The writer has chosen a voice appropriate for the topic, purpose, and audience. The writer demonstrates deep commitment to the topic. The writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere. Word choice is consistently precise and impactful.	A voice is present. The writer seems committed to the topic, and there may be a sense of "writing to be read." In places, the writing is expressive, engaging, or sincere.	The writer's commitment to the topic seems inconsistent. A sense of the writer may emerge at times; however, the voice is at time either inappropriate or ineffective. Many words are imprecise, redundant, or confusing.	The writing provides little sense of involvement or commitment. There is no evidence that the writer has chosen a suitable voice. Word choices are mostly imprecise, redundant, or confusing.
Sentence Fluency	The writing has an effective flow and rhythm. Sentences show a high degree of craftsmanship, with consistently strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable.	The writing flows; however, connections between phrases or sentences may be less than fluid. Sentence patterns are somewhat varied, contributing to ease in oral reading.	The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid. Occasional awkward constructions may force the reader to slow down or reread.	The writing tends to be either choppy or rambling. Awkward constructions often force the reader to slow down or reread.