

Problem-Solution Essay

For this assignment, you will convince the reader that adolescents in today’s world struggle with serious issues. In addition, you will present valid support for alternative ways of dealing with these issues and possible solutions for the characters’ struggles. The following activities are designed for Stephen Chbosky’s ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***. In preparation for this paper, you will complete the following steps. They will be checked off because they are an important and necessary part of the writing process for this paper. Each activity has further directions in this packet.

- Step 1: Choose a paper topic.
- Step 2: Answer the Topic Study Small Group Discussion Questions.
- Step 3: Think one personal event from your life that draws a parallel to your to your topic. (Alternately you may choose another literary work that portrays a character with a similar issue.)
- Step 4: Copy and explain five quotes directly from the novel that relate to your topic.
- Step 5: Explain your current events and make sure to attach the articles to this packet. For this step, better papers will provide additional resources.
- Step 6: Type a rough draft (12-pt. font, 1” margins, double-spaced, page #s): **Due _____**
- Step 7: Someone in this class must proofread your paper and check to make sure steps are complete.
- Step 8: Make corrections to your draft and submit it to www.turnitin.com.
- Step 9: Hand in your final draft, complete packet, rough draft and originality report: **Due _____**

Your paper must answer this question: How do we provide support and/or solutions to the kinds of issues presented in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* that real teens are struggling with today? This essay will be a four to six-page paper (Use 12 pt. font, 1” margins, double-spacing, and page numbers. Note that the Works Cited page doesn’t count as a page). The paper will compare this “fictional” issue to real world current events. The structure will incorporate the following:

- I. INTRODUCTION:
 - A. Attention-getter is a chosen quote from ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower***, which makes the reader interested in the topic.
 - B. Introduce and Define the topic you have chosen, thesis and preview of the paper (P.O.C.)
- II. BODY: (Consists of more than one paragraph, not necessarily in this order)
 - A. Events from ***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*** with quotes that illustrate the topic. (Remember, you will need at least five quotes in your paper. One will be your attention-getter, and one may be your clincher, which might leave three quotes in the body of your paper.)
 - B. Two examples of recent events from the news that are relevant to the topic.
 - C. At least one other real life example from your life (or alternate novel) that illustrates the topic.
 - D. Commentary that connects ideas, quotes and events from the novel to your current events and real life examples. You should also have additional research to support your argument.
- III. CONCLUSION:
 - A. Final ideas or summary statements tying your final ideas together and restating thesis.
 - B. Provide valid alternatives for dealing with these issues, places to go for help, solutions
 - C. A clincher: Example, story or quote that really drives the idea home.

Step 1: Choose one of the following issues to serve as your paper topic.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| _____ Alcoholism
_____ Dating
_____ Death
_____ Depression
_____ Divorce
_____ Drug abuse | _____ Grades
_____ Hazing/Bullying
_____ Isolation
_____ Parent-child relationships
_____ Physical abuse
_____ Pregnancy | _____ Sexual abuse
_____ Social anxiety
_____ Suicide
_____ Teacher-student relationships
_____ Sexual abuse
_____ Violence |
|--|---|--|

You may pick your own and write it below, but it must be approved and signed by me before you begin.

Your topic idea: _____

Teacher Signature: _____

Step 2: Answer the Topic Study Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Define and explain your chosen topic from *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*.
2. Describe the most important situation in the novel that relates to the topic.
3. Which major character in the novel is most affected by this issue?
4. Describe how one minor character is affected by this topic (you may look at more than one character).
5. Why is it important for people living in the world today to examine and understand this topic?

Step 3: Describe a real life/current situation through which you have personally witnessed this topic (or compare how another author addresses the topic through his or her characters' struggles).

Step 4: Copy word for word and then explain in your own words five quotes that relate to your topic

page #	Character name and quote from <i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>	Connection to topic/Analysis of quote

Step 7: PEER EDITING: Name of the student who edited your rough draft: _____

1. Are the Topic Study Small Group Discussion Questions answered correctly and completely? Y / N
2. Is a real life example/alternate novel described and adequately explained in the paper? Y / N
3. Do the five quotes relate to the topic, and are they adequately explained in the paper? Y / N
4. Are two separate current events explained in the paper and articles attached? Y / N
5. Does the rough draft follow all the paper formatting requirements?
(MLA format, four to six pages of double-spaced writing with page numbers, 1" margins, 12-pt. font, correct citations, Works Cited Page, and no errors.) Y / N
6. Have all the steps listed below been completed? Y / N

Y / N Step 1: Chose a paper topic.

Y / N Step 2: Answered the Topic Study Small Group Discussion Questions.

Y / N Step 3: Thought of one personal event that draws a parallel to the topic
(or alternate literary work that portrays a character with a similar issue).

Y / N Step 4: Copied and explained five quotes directly from the novel that relate to the topic.

Y / N Step 5: Explained current events and made sure to attach the articles to this packet.

Y / N Step 6: Typed a rough draft (12-pt. font, 1" margins, double-spaced, page #s).

Y / N Step 7: Paper has been proofread and all steps are complete for the rough draft.

Remember you must still complete the following steps as well:

Step 8: Make corrections to your draft and submit it to www.turnitin.com.

Step 9: Hand in your final draft, complete packet, rough draft and originality report on time.

Problem-Solution Essay GRADING CRITERIA:

CATEGORY	EXEMPLARY	PROFICIENT	SUFFICIENT	DEFICIENT
Paper Format, Mechanics and Content:				
Includes name, my name, course and date (MLA)				
Topic is defined and explained				
Introduction is complete with thesis statement and P.O.C.				
Paper contains linear, clear, insightful argument				
All facts are correct, cited and match the Works Cited Page				
Solution to issue is provided and reasonable				
Conclusion incorporates summary statements & clever clincher				
Essay is free from spelling, grammar and punctuation errors				
Paper meets length requirements: four to six pages				
Keyboarded text, 12-point font, double-spaced, page numbers				
Packet, articles, rough draft and originality report are included				
Real Life/Personal or Alternate Example:				
Example is included in the paper relates directly to topic				
The relationship between example and topic is explained				
Article 1:				
The article is attached, summarized, and relates directly to topic				
The relationship between article and topic is explained				
Article 2:				
The article is attached, summarized, and relates directly to topic				
The relationship between article and topic is explained				
Wallflower quote 1:				
Copied and cited correctly, character identified, context explained				
Connection to topic is explained and analyzed				
Wallflower quote 2:				
Copied and cited correctly, character identified, context explained				
Connection to topic is explained and analyzed				
Wallflower quote 3:				
Copied and cited correctly, character identified, context explained				
Connection to topic is explained and analyzed				
Wallflower quote 4:				
Copied and cited correctly, character identified, context explained				
Connection to topic is explained and analyzed				
Wallflower quote 5:				
Copied and cited correctly, character identified, context explained				
Connection to topic is explained and analyzed				

Add any extra credit	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Additional Comments:

Your Score out of 100 Possible Points		Letter Grade:	
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