

Problem–Solution Texts

This kind of high-level structure usually consists of four elements:

1. Description of a situation.
2. Identification of a problem.
3. Description of a solution.
4. Evaluation of the solution.

In the following examples, identify the four parts

(1) For over 20 years now biologists have been alarmed a situation that certain populations of amphibians have been declining. (2) These declines have occurred both in areas populated by humans as well as areas seemingly undisturbed by people. (3) However, offering clear proof of the declining numbers of amphibians has been difficult because in most cases there is no reliable data on past population sizes with which to compare recent numbers. (4) Moreover, it is not entirely clear whether the declines are actually part of a natural fluctuation in populations arising from droughts or a scarcity of food. (5) To address this problem biologists are changing the way that they observe amphibian populations. (6) One good documentation method involves counting species over the course of several years and under a variety of climatic conditions. (7) This method should yield reliable data that will help researchers understand the extent to which amphibian populations are in danger and begin to determine what can be done to stem the decline in populations.

(1) India has the second largest population in the world. (2) In 2001 it was 1027 million, which constituted nearly 17% of the world's people (Census of India, 2001). (3) Growth of population in urban areas is about twice as fast as that of the total country. (4) The city of Delhi, for example, has been experiencing rapid population growth because of its administrative importance in the country and better than average opportunities for education and health care. (5) Within the next two decades its population is expected to be around 27 million. (6) One of the major challenges facing Delhi today is the lack of affordable housing. (7) Because of this housing shortage, numerous unauthorized housing settlements have emerged and are scattered around the city. (8) Despite the low level of amenities and facilities in these thriving, unauthorized colonies, they are the only option for those who cannot afford either public or privately developed housing. (9) Although many solutions have been considered to solve this problem, some urban planners have argued that government policies should be implemented to regularize and expand these unsanctioned settlements. (10) Along with this effort, the government could coordinate efforts to upgrade these areas and provide basic services such as water supply, sewerage, and electricity. (11) If the settlements are better regulated and offer basic services, the housing shortage may begin to be alleviated. (Sivam 2003)