

The Essay Topic Selection Guidelines

Week 1 Lesson 2

English for Academic Purposes



Lesson Objectives

1

Analyzing and understanding
the structure of a problem
solution essay

2

Selecting an essay topic



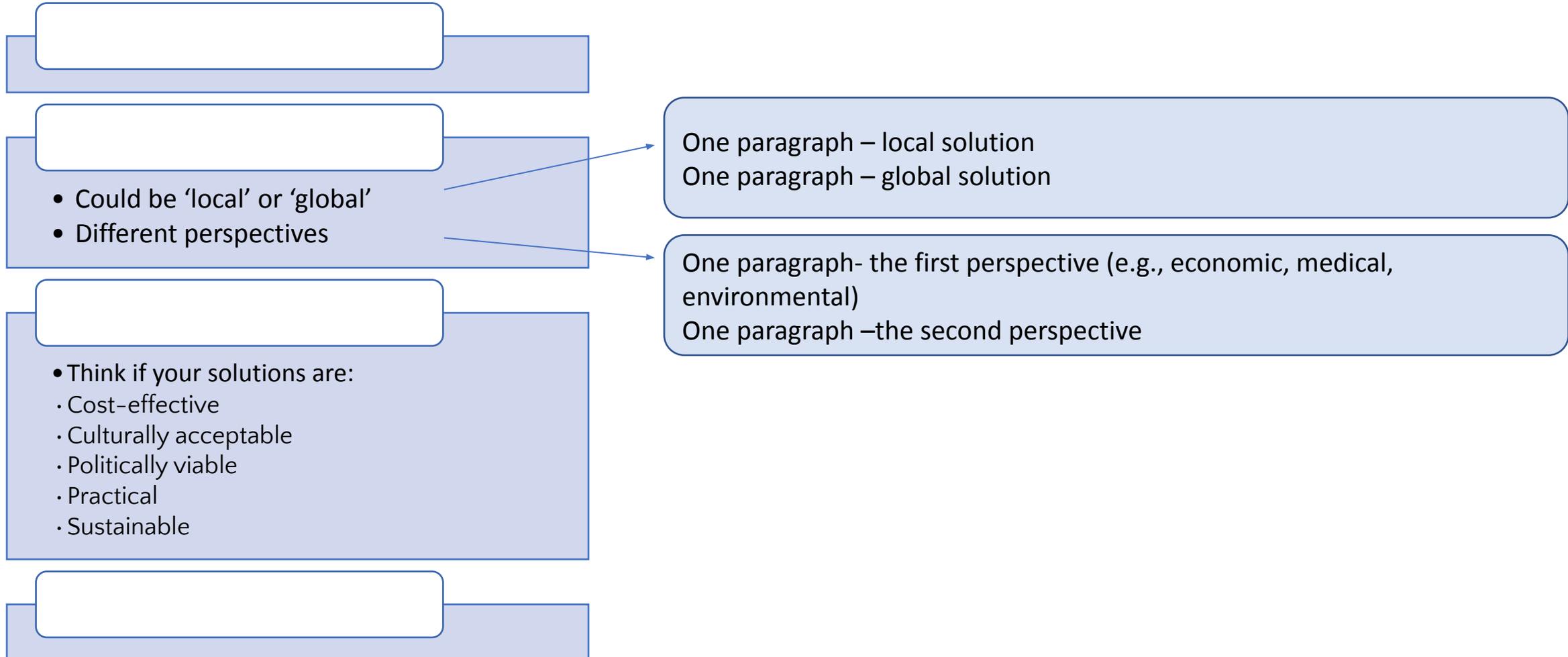
Warm-up

Work in pairs.

- Spend 7 min to select and discuss **one current pressing issue** in our society that needs to be addressed.

Problem-solution essay

Problem-solution essay is a type of essay that describes an issue and provides one or more ways of solving it.



TOPIC SELECTION

Criteria for topics of a problem-solution essay:

- A topic should trigger urgent issues in the society, both nationally and globally;
- Topic area: social, economic issues, environment, and public policy;
- A topic should be known for the wide audience and shared by the majority, not specific for a certain group of professionals;
- It should refer to academic papers





The essay **topic and outline**



Choose a general global issue



Narrow it down to two specific problems associated with the global issue you chose



Identify possible causes and effects



Draw up a list of possible solutions and decide on two or more solutions

Problems immigrants face in host countries



1. Choose a general global issue
2. Narrow it down to two specific problems associated with the global issue you chose
3. Identify possible causes
4. Draw up a list of possible solutions and decide on two or more solutions

1. Problems of immigrants (social minority)
2. Immigrants might have **difficulties integrating into society**, and they can also be **vulnerable to exploitation**.
3. War (asylum seekers, refugees), job opportunities (search for a better life)
4. Social inclusion of migrants; increased access to public services; post-arrival language training; awareness-raising; increase protections for victims and vulnerable migrants; Policy development; Focus research efforts on filling critical gaps in knowledge



Situation

The provision of education, particularly, in tertiary contexts, is becoming increasingly globalized. This trend towards globalization is characterized by more internationalized and standardized curricula (particularly in STEM subjects), increasing movements of students to other countries to study, and the use of English as the medium of instruction.

What are the potential problems that might arise from the situation above?

- ◉ International study can be very expensive for students
- ◉ Students whose first language is not English may be at a disadvantage
- ◉ Minority languages might be marginalized if not used for academic purposes

Think of more problems arising from the situation using the following list:

Career and Professional

Culture

National Identity

Personal and Family

● Work in groups

- ◉ Traditional foods are being replaced by international fast foods
- ◉ Brain drain from developing countries
- ◉ Internet addiction

Discuss and suggest for each topic:

- ◉ Examples of specific problems associated with the issue
- ◉ Possible causes
- ◉ Several possible solutions (local/global)

Assignment:

- Select a topic of your essay
- Find 2+ scholarly articles from Google Scholar
- Your sources should be linked to the essay topic
- 1 article should relate to the essay problem
- 1 article should be on solutions of those problems
- Create a list of references in APA style in MS Word doc



Useful sources:

Global Issues Overview (n.d.). *United Nations*.
<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues>



Do you have any questions?

A green rectangular sign with rounded corners and a white border, mounted on a metal pole. The sign features the words "Thank You" in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background of the sign is a textured green. The sign is set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Thank You