Imagine that you are a researcher who is intent on making a positive change in the world. Often you think "what responsibility do I have to my local and global communities?" You look around your community, you read the local and international news, and then you compile a list of possible topics for your problem/solution research:

Homelessness   drug addiction   food scarcity   endangered species

Climate change   air pollution   economic inequality   automation of industries
Mental health   obesity   phone addiction   water pollution
Dam Proliferation   nuclear proliferation terrorism   media bias/fake news
Violence in America   living wages   collective bargaining privatized education

I.   From these topics (or one of your choosing) you decide that you first need to understand the problem in its entirety. After all, you'll need to become an expert on your topic so that when you propose solutions your audience will feel that your ideas are well-founded.
   A.   Finding relevant, reliable, recent, and representative sources of information can be difficult when searching on the internet. In general the following domains have various degrees of reliability:

Most reliable (.gov .edu) US Library of Congress, EBSCO, GALE Databases
Somewhat reliable (.org .com .net) Democracy Now.org   Bill Moyers.com
Least reliable (blogs Facebook YouTube Social Media)

B. Evaluating your sources requires that you ask questions about the website you are visiting:
   1.   Who wrote this? What is the source of the information? If there is an author, who is this person? Is there a biography about the writer? What is her/his political or philosophical bias? Is this information representative of widely accepted knowledge or is this article an outlier or anomaly?
   2.   What are the primary claims? How do the statements match with what I already know about my topic? How recent are these ideas? Has the issue changed since this article was published?
   3.   Am I able to view this information objectively? Are my biases shaping how I view my subject? What are my biases?

C. Now that you have several reliable sources of information, you'll need to show that you understand the problem. What are the factors that led to this problem occurring? List them here:

   1.   Factor 1: _____
   2.   Factor 2: _____
   3.   Factor 3: _____

Factors Contributing to the Problem	Possible Solutions	Arguments against your solution (Naysayers who say it can't be done)	Rebuttal against those naysayers. In other words, why are you right to propose your solution?
1.			
2.			
3.			

Important Vocabulary Terms Related to My Topic:
1. _____ :   4. _____ :
2. _____ :   5. _____ :

3. _____: 6. _____:

Thesis Statement/Conclusion:

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Outline of Your Problem Solution Research Paper

   I.   Introduction
        A. Provide an engaging lead (startling statistic, memorable anecdote, debate question, analogy (metaphor or simile), quote from a reputable expert, summary of the problem, imagine a world…)
        B. Outline your essay, the problems you will discuss and why this issue is important

   II.   Body Paragraphs
        A. Factor #1 Contributing to the problem
           1. Explain the problem/factor
           2. Provide a solution
           3. Identify your naysayers or arguments opposed to your solution
           4. Refute those naysayers
           5. Be sure to cite your sources in your body paragraph
        B. Factor #2 Contributing to the problem
           1. Explain the problem/factor
           2. Provide a solution
           3. Identify your naysayers or arguments opposed to your solution
           4. Refute those naysayers
           5. Be sure to cite your sources in your body paragraph
        C. Factor #3 Contributing to the problem
           1. Explain the problem/factor
           2. Provide a solution
           3. Identify your naysayers or arguments opposed to your solution
           4. Refute those naysayers
           5. Be sure to cite your sources in your body paragraph

  III. Call to Action
        A. Summary of your solutions and why this issue is important for a specific group of people
        B. Call to action: provide simple ways that people can either learn more about this problem or get involved in solving it.
        C. End with a hopeful tone that a solution is within our grasp; end with your thesis statement (Topic, Opinion, Support)

Research Paper Requirements

Research Sources:
1. At least one source from the US Library of Congress https://www.loc.gov/
2. At least one source from a reputable college or university .edu
3. At least one source from a "non-profit" agency like Democracy Now!
4. At least one source from the Sacramento Library's EBSCO (Click "Research" then "College" to gain access to EBSCO) Citation is on the right side column.

Paper Format: APA Style (12 point Times New Roman or Arial font, double spaced, works cited page)

Paper Length: 600-1000 words

Abstract: 100-200 words (a half page single paragraph)
1. Identify your research topic and research question
2. Identify the approach you have used used to answer the question. Your abstract should contain at least your participants, methods, results, and data analysis. You may also include possible implications of your research and future work you see connected with your findings.
3. Identify the answer to your research question (your conclusion, your thesis)
4. Provide the key vocabulary terms related to your topic. Indent and italicize the words.

Works Cited Page (the final, separate page)
1. All cited sources should be included in APA style
   https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
2. Use easybib.com to format your citation or use EBSCO

Cover Sheet
1. What you like about your writing
2. What you dislike about your writing
3. The ways you tried to improve
4. New Vocabulary
5. New Sentences/Grammatical Structures
6. Rhetorical or poetic techniques
7. Growth Mindset