

Format your paper according to your assignment instructions: [APA, MLA, Chicago Style](#)

The following sample includes APA-style citations and references.

What is a Problem/Solution Paper?

A Problem/Solution paper requires you to investigate a problem, examine alternative solutions, and propose the most effective solution using supporting evidence.

You'll first describe the problem and persuade your reader that the problem needs to be addressed. Then, explain a possible solution(s) and provide support to show why the solution is a good choice.

As with all academic writing, you'll need to [cite](#) any information that you used from a source within your paper and include a [References](#) list.

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The **introduction** should introduce your topic and share the **problem** that you see. At the end of the introduction, you should state your thesis, which should include your position, which is your proposed **solution** to the problem.

To Test or Not to Test: Animal Testing

The subject of animal testing raises questions of necessity. Animal testing is something that has been done for many years for several different reasons. It has been used since the dawn of medicine by physicians and scientists. From biomedical research to testing cosmetics, people claim that animal testing is necessary to benefit people in satisfying their need for certain products as well as saving lives. There is an idea that animals are the best way to find treatments and cures for people, but the treatment of animals is of concern for some members of society. Society is feeling more and more that animals have as much right to live freely in this world as humans do, and our obligation to see to this makes animal testing a societal problem. Due to these concerns and others, there have been several laws and acts formed to protect animals and minimize their suffering. And with the advances of technology and other discoveries, the question of the necessity of animal testing is becoming an issue for animal activists and lovers everywhere. In regards to animal testing for biomedical research and medical progress, some people claim that there is no other way to test for the safety and lifesaving properties of products used for humans. At the same time, there are people that feel there is a way to get what we need for research without using animals as subjects. The future of medicine and biomedical research should not rely on animals for testing. Instead, we should use alternative testing methods and work toward making different lifestyle choices.

Here, the student is introducing the **topic** of animal testing to the reader.

The introduction includes a brief discussion of **why** this is a problem.

The introduction ends with a **thesis statement** that includes the student's position and proposed solution(s) to the problem.

Problem

You might use **section headers** for each of the major sections of your paper if you are writing a lengthy paper.

Animal testing has been deemed necessary for many reasons. Animal testing has been used to determine the safety of household cleaning products, cosmetics including

In this paragraph, the student has given the reader some **background information** on the problem.

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skin care, shampoo and makeup, as well as biomedical research that provides medicine and treatments for humans and pets alike. The BioIndustry Association (2002) argues that “Animal research has made a vital contribution to the development of medicines that save many lives every day” (Taylor, 2005, p. 7). In 1938 Congress passed the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act because of public demands after tragic incidents involving an untested product (Why Do Companies Test Cosmetics or Other Products on Animals?, 2013). There have been many arguments and evidence that shows the “good” that animal research has done in regards to biomedical research. Studies involving dogs, rats, rabbits, cats, chickens, pigs and sheep have all helped to contribute to the understanding of heart disease. Drugs and vaccines that can be a possible solution to the devastating HIV/AIDS virus are present due to the tests that have been performed on chickens, cats and monkeys with a similar virus. Animals have been used as models for research for almost every disease that is known to man (Lee, 2015). If animal testing has contributed to creating drugs for diseases as serious as cancer and HIV/AIDS, naturally animals have also provided cures and treatments for many other diseases and sicknesses.

This paragraph discusses the **first reason** that animal testing is a problem and provides evidence to support this.

Therefore, how could animal testing be wrong? Indeed, research has shown that animal testing is helpful to progress in the field of medicine and biomedical research as well as developing treatments that are yielding promising results. However, it comes with a high cost. It comes with the cost of animals being subjected to tests that put them through distress and can harm or kill them. Humans and animals are both sentient beings; sentient meaning a person or being that has feelings or that can feel (World Book, 2015). Research shows that 37% percent of animals used for science suffer moderate to severe stress and discomfort or severe pain (National Statistics, 2014). When it comes to using

animals for science and experimentation, people tend to focus on the fact that non-human animals are inferior to humans. Regardless of whether or not this is true it does not take away from the fact that animals are sentient and that they experience pain and seek pleasure. Animals and people react to pain in similar ways by screaming or trying to avoid the source of the pain. “The American Veterinary Association defines animal pain as an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience perceived as arising from a specific region of the body and associated with actual or potential tissue damage” (Dunnuck, n.d, para. 6). Some of the animals used in biomedical research are not given any pain relief. They are subjected to painful conditions and physical procedures that leave them in intense cold or heat, or have limbs crushed and spinal cords damaged (Callanan, 2009). Pain and suffering are unique to every individual. Every person’s and even animal’s pain threshold is different. However, evidence clearly shows the pain that is experienced the same way that it is in humans.

This next paragraph discusses a **second reason** that animal testing is a problem and again provides evidence to support this.

Physical pain is unfortunately not the only problem that these animals undergo. Psychological distress, fear, and sadness have been demonstrated amongst a wide variety of species (Ferdowisiann & Beck, 2011). The use of chimpanzees and other primates for animal testing has generated a lot of controversy because of their similarities to humans. Ironically enough, it is also the reason that so many researchers have wanted to use them as models. Indeed chimpanzees are highly emotional and intelligent creatures that are evolutionarily and genetically similar to human beings. This is the argument of researchers that makes them great candidates for biomedical research. Philosophy Department Chair Lori Gruen states, “They’re very similar to us in terms of their emotional lives and

their intellectual and physical and social experiences, and using them in ways is to harm them; they don't consent to it" (Lee, 2015, p. 3).

This paragraph discusses a **third reason** that animal testing is a problem. Evidence is used to support this.

Besides the obvious reasons of the pain and suffering that these animals feel, there is the question of the necessity for animal testing in regards to medical advances. Despite the increasing number of technological alternatives to animal testing, over 100 million animals are legally used for animal experiments each year for medical research alone. In 2007, England, Wales and Scotland used 3.1 million animals for genetic and biomedical experimentation (Callanan, 2009). In October of 2006 attendees of the opening day of the Joint World Congress for Stroke in Cape Town, South Africa were devastated at the failure of a drug that was intended for ischemic stroke. The drug, NXY-059, had reached phase III of clinical trials and failed to do what the animals used for the research had promised. The drug was supposed to "stop the cascade of the necrosis in the event of a stroke, and protect the remaining viable brain cells" (Gawrylewski, 2007, para. #). Director of Michigan Alzheimer's Diseases Research Center in the Department of Neurology at the University of Michigan Sid Gilman says that one of the major faults in the trials for NXY-059 was its use of animal models (Gawrylewski, 2007). Besides the millions of dollars wasted, there was a waste of life and unnecessary use of animals for painful research. This is one of many examples of disappointing tests on animals that did not work.

In this paragraph, the student discusses her **first solution** to the problem.

You can see that she used several pieces of evidence to support her argument that this solution is viable.

Solution

Considering the horrific psychological and physical pain that animals have to go through in the midst of testing for biomedical research, alternative testing methods are in order. According to Callanan (2009), there has been much successful research and many

tests done to help find treatments for diseases and sicknesses that have plagued humans and did not involve animal testing. Many scientists have started and are continuing to develop alternate ways to test and find treatments for people because they do not want to harm animals. Some of these new developments include cell cultures, analytical technology, micro-organisms, computer models, population research, and volunteer studies. Cell cultures have contributed to the understanding of cancer, Parkinson's, and HIV/AIDS. Analytical technology uses equipment that selects anti-cancer and anti-malaria drugs because of the reaction it produces with DNA. Computer models are allowing for virtual experiments to be conducted (Callanan, 2009). Tissue engineering is also an alternative to animal testing. It uses a 3-D skin equivalent that is physiologically comparable to skin. It investigates wound healing melanoma research, infection biology, analysis of infection, invasion of different pathological microorganisms and immunological, histological, and molecular-biological analysis. This study has been inspired by economical and ethical incentive (Mertsching et al., 2008). Animals are subjects for painful and uncomfortable vaccine success for human diseases. However, some researchers have begun to rely only on human data, cells and tissue. As far as vaccine development goes, researchers have set up a surrogate in-vitro human immune system to help predict an individual's immune response to certain drugs and vaccines. This test has been compared with data from animal experimentation and has proven to produce more accurate pre-clinical data (Ferdowsian & Beck, 2011). This evidence shows that alternative ways to test treatments are in fact possible and even better, making testing on animals more of a choice than a necessity.

Along with alternatives to animal testing, there are alternative lifestyle choices that can prevent people from having to use the drugs that are being tested on animals.

In this paragraph, the student discusses her **second proposed solution**.

You can see that she used several pieces of evidence to support her argument that this solution is viable.

Naturally there are some things that are out of people's control including genetics and accidents that cause serious bodily harm. However, there is the choice to exercise, eat healthy, and engage in healthy behavior and activities that will prevent a lot of diseases that call for people to use some of the drugs that tested on animals. Complementary and alternative as well as integrative healthcare include preventative healthcare, and natural remedies to help treat the physical body as well as treating the mental state. Having better habits can help to eliminate some of the issues that these medicines that torture animals can be good for. For instance, headaches and migraines are a common problem unfortunately. According to the International Headache Society, 46% of the adult population suffers from regular headaches 11% suffers from migraines while about 46% suffers from tension headaches (as cited in Adams et al., 2013). Also noted is that the most common way that people treat headaches and migraines is through conventional medicines that include acetaminophen, acetylsalicylic, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs that may cause a plethora of issues including dry mouth, constipation, seizures, and weight gain. These are also some of the things that they induce animals with in order to see if the drugs they are giving out work. There are several different alternative methods to treating headaches in migraine including drinking more water, having a healthier diet, acupuncture, massage therapy, yoga, meditation, and breathing exercises. These are all cruelty free and have been shown to help people (Adams et al., 2013). Again, these alternative and preventative treatments offer a solution to the problem of a

Conclusion

In the conclusion, **summarize** the main points made in your paper.

While animal testing is a social concern for our society and culture, there are ways that we can and should work to eliminate this. One major way to do this is by researching and investing in alternative testing measures. There are alternatives that currently exist and are being used, but this needs to continue at a greater rate. The cost of delaying this is the unnecessary suffering of innocent animals. We should also continue with the current trend of investing in preventative healthcare such as living a healthy lifestyle to help eliminate illnesses and the need for medicines. We now know more than ever about the benefits and risks of certain foods, products, and behaviors and we are in a greater position to use this for the good of all living beings. This is an important issue to tackle because the way that we treat those who are not in a position of power, such as animals, reflects on our identity and who we are as a culture and a society. Our character is in question if we continue to allow unnecessary suffering to animals to happen.

The student ends her paper by stating **why** this is an important conversation.

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