Outline for Prob/Sol Paper on Homelessness

   1. THESIS/STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM: One of the greatest shames of the United States is our failure to end homelessness in our own country.
   2. def. of homeless (B)
   3. families with children make up 50% of homeless pop. (A)
   4. 1.35 million children each year are homeless (C)
   5. nationwide, 39% of homeless are children (A)
   6. 750,000 homeless each night in US (A)

II. Problem continued: Causes of homelessness (How & Why)
   1. TOPIC SENTENCE: Contrary to popular belief that the homeless are mostly mentally ill drug addicts, there are several other major causes for homelessness in America.
   2. 20% of homeless are employed (D)
   3. min. wage worker must work 89 hours a week to afford housing at 30% of income (D)
   4. over 5.4 million families pay over 50% of their income for rent (E)
   5. quote from expert: Peter Goodman, Institute of Homeless Studies (E)
   6. half of all homeless women and children are fleeing domestic violence (F)

III. Problem continued: Effects of Homelessness
    TOPIC SENTENCE: The problem of homelessness is not just a problem for the homeless -- it impacts all of us.
    1. costs US 1.2 million dollars per day to care, shelter and feed homeless in shelters (A)
    2. homeless 40% more likely to be victims of violent assaults than others (F)
    3. contributes to prostitution (C)
    4. law enforcement costs (A)
    5. quote from expert: Jack Handle, director of IHN: "black mark on face of nation" (B)

III. Solution 1: TOPIC SENTENCE – One proposed solution is to provide job re-training for the unemployed and to raise the minimum wage.
   A. Advantages
      1. min. wage raised in many states and proposals in Fed Gov't (D)
      2. job training is cheaper in the long run than welfare assistance (D)
B. Why it won’t work / disadvantages
   1. many may lose jobs when small businesses fail due to high labor costs (D)
   2. only treats one cause of homelessness (F)
   3. quote from Mary Jones, Director of National Policy Committee on Homelessness -- "Won't alone make a difference" (C)

IV. Solution 2 – TOPIC SENTENCE: Another solution is to fully fund homeless shelters in major urban centers and to open new shelters where needed.
   A. Advantages
      1. quote from Mary Jones, Director of National Policy Committee on Homelessness -- "temporary solution only, though important" (C)
      2. could give families somewhere to go safe for children while they re-cover from the events that led to losing a home (A)
   B. Why it won’t work / disadvantages
      1. Only temporary, doesn't solve; the causes of homelessness remain

V. Solution 3 – TOPIC SENTENCE: Finally, another way to attack the problems of homelessness is to make more affordable housing available to those who need it.
   A. Advantages
      1. every city in America has a shortage of affordable housing (B)
      2. 80% of homeless families who received subsidized housing stayed housed and stable (B)
      3. 18% of same without housing remained stable (C)
   B. Why it is better than other solutions
      1. Long term stability (B)
      2. Pride of ownership (C)
      3. Low costs – builders can still profit (B)
      4. quote from expert: Sarah James, Habitat for Humanity national director (C)

VI. Conclusion – Call to action
   TOPIC SENTENCE: The time for action is now.
   1. What individuals can do to help
   2. Homeless kids have health and ed problems – so critical to act (A)
   3. The problem gets worse as prices for everything go up (A)
   4. Personal debt of Americans at an all-time high (G)
   5. Must act, the next homeless family could be your own
   6. The richest country in the world can afford to help its most needy citizens

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