

Homeless Veterans in the U.S. | Annotation Letters to Next President Anchor 3

	Employs a Public Voice	Advocates Civic Engagement	Argues a Position Based on Reasoning & Evidence	Employs a Structure
<p>Title: Homeless Veterans In The U.S.</p> <p>Form: Public Letter</p> <p>Media: Text</p> <p>URL: https://letters2president.org/letters/527</p>	<p>Score 3 The writing:</p> <p>Employs satisfactory rhetorical strategy of using personal experience to personalize the widespread physical and mental health issues facing veterans. <i>“He and countless number of others have had problems such as PTSD...and other physical injuries...”</i> and <i>“Put yourself in my shoes...”</i></p> <p>Employs a tone of moral outrage in describing the magnitude of the homeless veteran challenge (<i>“That is crazy, I can barely comprehend that almost 50,000 vets have come back from war and have become homeless.”</i>). This tone is satisfactory for gaining the attention of the audience.</p> <p>Satisfactorily establishes the writer’s credibility through demonstration of knowledge of the challenges facing veterans, particularly homeless veterans, gained through first hand experience and research. The specificity of information about the problem builds the audience’s trust and confidence in the writer.</p> <p>While language choices are satisfactory, the sentence construction issue keeps this from rising to a 4 (<i>“Men and women all across the U.S. are coming back from war that that are struggling physically and mentally, and not getting support from the government they should.”</i>)</p>	<p>Score 3 The writing:</p> <p>Satisfactorily raises awareness of the medical and housing issues for veterans, especially homeless veterans. The presentation of the acknowledgement of the need, <i>“Commissioners have stated that veterans deserve better in an interview on CNN,”</i> and the ineffective attempts to address these issues underscores that more needs to be done. Satisfactorily establishes the importance of the problem, using statistics about the length of wait time for VA services and the number of homeless veterans.</p> <p>Advocates for all veterans to have increased access to private physicians and to ensure that homeless veterans receive medical attention. However, it does not make a specific proposal for how to address the challenges facing homeless veterans, and therefore is not analyzed for reasonableness and feasibility.</p>	<p>Score 3 The writing:</p> <p>Uses satisfactory reasoning, and a clear value structure, to develop the position that more needs to be done to address the physical and mental well-being of veterans, and that current programs aren’t sufficient to address the needs.</p> <p>Satisfactorily interprets and blends personal and statistical evidence to support the argued position. <i>“He and countless numbers of others have had problems ... that are hard to adjust to everyday life.”</i></p> <p>Does not, though, critique the idea that two-million dollars may not be sufficient to address the magnitude of the problems facing the Veterans Administration, nor does it say exactly where that figure came from.</p> <p>Briefly discusses and counters a potential alternate position that government is already providing care and support, by demonstrating that current efforts are insufficient (increasing numbers of homeless veterans despite having access to programs).</p> <p>The writing is also strengthened by the request for the reader to, <i>“Put yourself in my shoes growing up as a kid knowing your dad was over fighting to protect you with millions of other men and women risking there (sic) lives every day to save yours.”</i> This attempt to enlist an empathetic response on the part of the reader effectively links, through reasoning, the different pieces of evidence used to develop the position.</p>	<p>Score 3 The writing:</p> <p>Presents an organization that satisfactorily develops the central argument that veterans need more and better health care, alternating between a focus on general issues with the VA and specific issues with homeless.</p> <p>Includes a clear opening and closure that support a call for civic engagement, using both personal experience and moral appeals to establish significance. <i>“The Veterans with mental problems or physical problems shouldn’t be tossed aside...”</i></p> <p>Satisfactorily links sections of the text by tying content back to the mental and physical health challenges veterans face.</p>

