

Persuasive Essay

A persuasive essay

- states an opinion or position on an issue.
- provides facts and reasons to support the opinion.
- contains arguments that appeal to the reader's ethics, emotions, or reason.
- has an introductory paragraph, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.



DIRECTIONS Read and analyze this persuasive essay. Then, answer the questions.

Should We Kick Out Football?

I am a sports nut. I spend hours glued to the television watching games—hockey, basketball, baseball, and football. I also play on the school's basketball and baseball teams. However, this sports fan has had enough of high school football. At the risk of being shunned by my friends, I say we should kick out football.

If you are growling at me as you read this, let me say that two months ago I would have been on your side. Two months ago, however, I hadn't read my dad's newsletter from the Riverton City Sports Council. The newsletter printed statistics about sports-related injuries in our state's schools. Football causes four hundred times as many injuries as any other sport. Last year, two local players suffered spinal cord injuries. One of those football players is in a wheelchair. He'll never walk again.

Students who play football are taking a terrible chance. One-third of the players sustain some kind of injury during the season. Do you think the new helmets protect players from serious hurt? Wrong! I don't know whether the players are practicing without helmets, or the helmets themselves are inadequate. I do know that 22 student football players in our state suffered head injuries last year. By contrast, only one basketball player in the whole state sustained a head injury.

1. What opinion or position does the writer state in this essay? _____

2. In what part of the essay does that opinion appear? _____

3. What type of appeal does the writer use? _____

4. Does the essay convince you to agree with its point of view? Why or why not? _____



Supporting an Opinion

In a persuasive essay, writers use **legitimate reasons** to persuade their readers.



Read the three reasons given to support each opinion. Write *legitimate reason* on the line beside the correct choice. For the other two choices, write a term from the box that identifies why each fails to support the stated opinion.

faulty generalization	testimonial	bandwagon technique	WORD BOX
ignoring the question	labeling	faulty cause and effect	

1. An Airedale is the dog for you.
 - a. All the movie stars are buying them. _____
 - b. They are intelligent dogs and need little exercise room. _____
 - c. The president says Airedales are his favorite dog. _____
2. Betty Silvers would make a good judge at a dog show.
 - a. She raises dogs herself and has lots of experience through her work with the AKA. _____

 - b. She is a cold fish and won't let feelings of friendship influence her decision. _____

 - c. Right after she joined the advertising committee, they came up with a great ad campaign. _____

3. Everyone who has a dog should take it through obedience school.
 - a. Mr. Klein's beagle loved going to obedience school. It was fun for dogs. _____
 - b. Statistics on dog bites show that only 2 percent of dogs that bite have been through obedience school. _____
 - c. My teacher took her dog through obedience training, and if it's good enough for her, it's good enough for me. _____
4. An animal shelter is a good place to find a new dog.
 - a. Pit bulls do not make good pets. _____
 - b. The animal shelter in our town picks up over 500 abandoned dogs each year. _____
 - c. In an animal shelter, you can usually find a dog that has already been trained. _____



Persuasive Essay: Graphic Organizer



DIRECTIONS Many people think that everyone should learn at least one language other than English. Should students be required to learn a foreign language to graduate from high school? Plan to write a persuasive essay expressing your opinion. Use the graphic organizer to help you plan.

What is the topic of your essay? _____ _____ _____	What is your opinion on this topic? _____ _____ _____
Reason 1 _____ _____ _____ _____	Why? Support your reason. _____ _____ _____ _____
Reason 2 _____ _____ _____ _____	Why? Support your reason. _____ _____ _____ _____
Reason 3 _____ _____ _____ _____	Why? Support your reason. _____ _____ _____ _____

Evaluating a Persuasive Essay

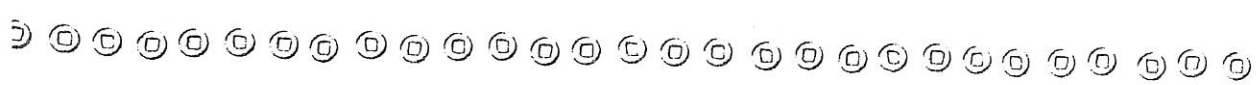


Use the chart below to evaluate a persuasive essay. Check *Yes* or *No* to answer each question. If the answer is *No*, make notes about ways to revise and improve the essay.

Question	Yes ✓	No ✓	If <i>No</i> , what needs to be done to improve the essay?
Does the writer state his or her opinion clearly?			
Does the writer grab the reader's attention in the first paragraph?			
Does the writer provide legitimate arguments for the opinion?			
Does the essay include facts, statistics, or examples to support the arguments?			
Does the writer avoid faulty generalizations, testimonials, labeling, use of the bandwagon technique, and faulty cause and effect?			
Does the writer present arguments from least to most important?			
Does the writer appeal to the reader's ethics, emotions, or reason?			
Does the writer summarize his or her position in the last paragraph?			
Does the essay convince the reader of the writer's position?			
Has the writer corrected mistakes in spelling, grammar, and punctuation?			



Use the notes in the chart and the graphic organizer on page 107 to revise the essay as needed. Use the information in Units 1–4 to correct grammar, usage, and mechanics problems.



Persuasive Essay: Proofreading

To be a good proofreader, look for one type of error at a time. For example, proofread once for capitalization errors, once for punctuation errors, and once for spelling errors.

PROOFREADER'S MARKS

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| ≡ Capitalize. | ∧ Replace something. |
| ⊙ Add a period. | ↔ Transpose. |
| ^ Add something. | ○ Spell correctly. |
| ^ Add a comma. | ¶ Indent paragraph. |
| ∨∨ Add quotation marks. | / Make a lowercase letter. |
| ✂ Cut something. | |



Proofread this excerpt from a persuasive essay. Use the proofreader's marks above to correct at least fifteen errors. Pay special attention to capitalization of proper nouns.

The people of the World are faced with alarming environmental problems. I am convinced that we must all cooperate through international agencies to solve these problems. Working alone, one state or or one nation cannot protect it's land and people from environmental hazards. The problems faced by people in the united states are also problems for people in canada, Japan, and russia. Only by facing these problems together and trying to work out cooperative solutions can we protect ourself and our Planet.

International cooperation is needed for several reasons. in the first place, some environmental dangers threaten the whole planet rather than local areas. Damage to the ozone layer is a good example. If someone in nebraska uses an aerosol spray, the chemicals do not stay in Nebraska. Those damaging chemicals travel to the ozone layer, where they effect the hole world. Therefore, a State or Country cannot protect itself against ozone damage simply by passing a law forbidding the local use of aerosols.

