

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Task \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Persuasive Essay How To and Outline*

Persuasive writing attempts to **convince** the reader that the point of view or course of action recommended by the writer is valid. To accomplish this, the writer must **develop a limited topic which is well defined and debatable**, that is has more than one side. It is important that the author understand other sides of the position so that the strongest information to counter the others can be presented. In the essay, only one side of the issue is presented.

Like all kinds of five paragraph essays, there is a specific format to be followed.

- The topic sentence cannot be a fact as facts cannot be debated. **It should be a statement of position. That position must be clear and direct.** This statement directs the readers to follow along with your logic towards the specific stated conclusion that you want them to support. Do not make it personal so do not use personal pronouns. Make it definitive.
- Then, in the same introductory paragraph, state the three best reasons that you have to support your position as the remainder of the opening paragraph. These three reasons become the topics of each of the three supporting paragraphs. Again, be sure they are able to be supported with additional separate facts.
- In the body of the essay, the writer uses **specific evidence, examples, and statistics** and not broad generalizations or personal opinions to persuade the reader that the stated position is a valid one. Be sure to use adequate transitions between paragraphs as they make it easy for the reader to follow the logic of the presentation.
- As one closes the essay, **it is most important to to clearly redefine the topic and restate the most compelling evidence cited in original form.** Remember, this is the last chance to remind the reader and convince him/her to accept the writer's position.
- Do not introduce new material in the conclusion.

### Persuasive Essay Outline

#### **Opening Paragraph**

The opening paragraph includes the thesis statement. The thesis statement states your position. Within the paragraph you must also give three reasons that will support your position.

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#### **Paragraph Two**

The topic sentence of this paragraph will include Reason #1 from your opening paragraph. Use facts from the story and facts you have researched that will explain Reason #1.

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**Paragraph Three**

This will follow the same outline as Paragraph Two except that it will explain Reason #2.

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**Paragraph Four**

This will follow the same outline as Paragraph Two except that it will explain Reason #3.

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**Paragraph Five**

This is the conclusion. Restate your position and your three reasons. **Convince your reader that your position is the correct one.**

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