



Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Persuasive Essay

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A persuasive essay is your chance to make a point! A good essay will challenge readers to agree with your opinion or to think more deeply about your ideas. Here are some tips to get you started.

Pick a Topic

Choose an idea that you want to convince others about. For instance, you could argue that the voting age should change or that recycling should be required at your school.

My topic and opinion: _____

Research the Issue

Take notes as you conduct your research. Be sure to investigate both sides of the topic.

One opinion that opposes mine is: _____

Facts supporting the opposing opinion include: _____

One opinion that supports mine is: _____

Facts supporting that opinion include: _____

Make an Outline

Use this sample to organize your essay.

- I. Introduction:** Briefly explain the topic and your opinion in the first paragraph of your essay.
- II. Summarize opposing arguments:** In one or two paragraphs, explain the viewpoints of those who disagree with you.
- III. Summarize your argument:** In one or two paragraphs, explain your opinion. Support your position with facts, statistics, and quotes from experts. Be sure to point out flaws in the opposing argument.
- IV. Conclusion:** Finish by challenging readers to act. For instance, if you argued against capital punishment, recommend joining an activist group or writing to a State Representative.

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