

PERSUASIVE ESSAY

In a persuasive essay, your job as a writer would be **to convince the reader to accept a particular point of view or take a specific action.** A quality persuasive essay shows not only the reason why the writer is correct, but also states why the ideas of the opponent are incorrect.

Below are shown the short steps how to draft and write a successful Persuasive Essay.

Prewriting of PE

The initial stage of writing encourages you to carefully plan every stage/aspect of the essay:

- **Choose a position**
Think on the issue and pick the side you wish you to defend
- **Understand the audience**
Understand the reader's perspective and the reasons he takes pro/cons side of the issue
- **Do the research**
Persuasive essay requires much research which usually includes more than one source of information. Sometimes you may need to organize interviews with experts, professors, librarians to widen your scope. Get as much info as you can to possess the knowledge for both sides of the issue
- **Identify the most convincing evidence**

Short Outline of Persuasive Essay

1.

INTRODUCTION

- **Use a “hook” to attract reader’s attention.**
- **Overview the argument you propose.**
- **End with a thesis statement that reveals the position to be argued.**

The introduction part needs to contain a “hook” in order to grab the reader’s attention. You can start by disclosing some fact, statistics info, question or a statement. For instance: “Driving while talking on a cell phone, even hands-free, is the equivalent of driving drunk.”

The introduction should also include **thesis/focus statement**. It demonstrates to the reader the specific topic of your essay and usually should be one-two sentence long.

2.

BODY PARAGRAPHS

- Focus on one piece of evidence in each paragraph.
- Provide sufficient supporting detail within each paragraph.
- Define and then oppose the key points of the counter view (usually one paragraph)
- Use of “I” is strongly discouraged

In body part of the essay you need to provide evidence to support the opinion offered in the thesis statement in the introduction part. Usually, there might be 3 paragraphs in the body and each of them needs to have a solid reason to support thesis statement. One of three paragraphs must be dedicated to discuss **the opposing view** and your **counter-argument**. Consider various ways to make the argument, including using an analogy, drawing comparisons, or illustrating with hypothetical situation (e.g., what if, suppose that...).

Here are some ways how to support your arguments:

Facts, statistics, quotes, examples

Hints for successful body paragraphs:

1. Define your position in your topic sentence – state your argument or reason that supports your position (thesis), think about what needs to be explained, and then think about how you can elaborate.
2. Use transitional words between sentences and paragraphs (however, consequently, in fact, in contrast, notwithstanding...)

3.

CONCLUSION

- Summarize and emphasize the thesis statement and supporting evidence

The conclusion pulls together all the major details of the argument and states once again what the reader is to believe or do.

For more resources may want to visit the following sources:

<http://www.studygs.net/wrtstr4.htm>

<http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/awolaver/term1.htm>

<https://www.hamilton.edu/writing/writing-resources/persuasive-essay>

To make the writing effective, very often transitional words are used to show the relation between ideas.

To repeat an idea just stated:

In other words,
That is,
To repeat,
Again,

To illustrate an idea:

For example,
For instance,
In particular,
To illustrate,
In this manner,
Thus

Time:

At once,
In the interim,
At length,
Immediately,
At last,
Meanwhile,
In the meantime,
Presently,
At the same time,
Shortly,
In the end,
Temporarily,
Thereafter,

To show cause and effect:

As a result,
For this reason,
Therefore,
Hence,
Consequently,
Accordingly,

To announce a contrast, a change in direction:

Yet,
However,
Still,
Nevertheless,
On the other hand,
In contrast,
Instead of,
On the contrary,
Conversely,
Notwithstanding,
In spite of this,

To restate an idea more precisely:

To be exact,
To be specific,
To be precise,
More specifically,
More precisely,

To mark a new idea as an addition to what has been said:

Similarly,
Also,
Too,
Besides,
Furthermore,
Further,
Moreover,
In addition,

Conclusion:

In short,
To conclude,
In brief,
On the whole,
In summary,
To sum up,