

English: How to write a persuasive essay

Name: _____

Class: _____

1 What is a persuasive (or argumentative) essay?

Persuasive or argumentative essay writing uses logic and reason to show that one idea is more valid than another idea. It attempts to persuade a reader to accept a certain point of view or to take a particular action. The argument must always use sound reasoning and solid evidence by stating facts, giving logical reasons, using examples and quoting experts, if relevant.

2 Parts of a persuasive essay

a Introduction

Your introduction should hook your reader's attention and provide background information on your topic.

The paragraph should end with a clear statement of your point of view.

b Supporting view

Your body paragraphs should present the points that support of your point of view.

Make sure that you develop one point in each paragraph.

Be sure to provide evidence for each point that you make. Types of evidence could be:

- **Facts** – things that actually occurred
- **Statistics** – data arising from a study in support of your point of view
- **Quotes** – direct quotes from leading experts in the field
- **Examples** – examples from real-life situations.

c Opposing view

After presenting your supporting points, develop one paragraph to explain accurately, and then disprove, the most significant opposing view.

d Conclusion

Restate your main idea and supporting points in a creative and interesting way.

Try to leave your audience even more persuaded by your main idea and point of view.