

WRITING THE PERSUASIVE ESSAY

WRITING THE ESSAY

Follow these steps to successfully complete this essay:

1. Take a position **FOR** or **AGAINST** a controversial topic.
2. You will need to **do some research** to complete the essay, so get Googling. Just be sure to avoid using Wikipedia as a source, as it is not reliable.
3. This essay needs to be **five paragraphs**.
4. Read on for more information...

WRITING THE INTRODUCTION

Since the introduction is the opening paragraph, it needs to really grab your reader's attention. A great introduction has three things:

1. **Hook**—Catch your reader's attention; remember that you can use a quote, a fact, a question, an anecdote (short story)...something to engage your reader.
2. **Bridge**—This part helps narrow your focus; you can mention your topic, but don't give your thesis yet.
3. **Thesis Statement**—This is the main idea of your paper; it states your opinion and includes your reasons for it. It should be one sentence. Just don't use *In this essay* or *In this paper I will talk about...*

****For more details on writing introductions, check out the *Writing Introductions presentation.***

WRITING THE BODY PARAGRAPHS

The body paragraphs of your essay provide reasons to support your opinion; in any well-developed essay, there are three. This means you will have three body paragraphs that do the following:

1. **Give a reason to support your opinion**—This is the topic sentence of your paragraph. Be sure to use a transition word.
2. **Includes lots of facts, examples, explanations, details, and descriptions**—You want to support your ideas so that the reader is convinced and persuaded to believe your opinion.
3. **Use good writing**—This means you will use active voice, powerful word choices, correct commas, and transition words. Your paragraph should be at least 5 sentences in length.

*****For more details on writing Body Paragraphs, check out the Body Paragraphs presentation.***

WRITING THE CONCLUSION

The conclusion is your last paragraph and needs three things:

1. **Restate Your Thesis**—Restate means you write it again, but in a different way.
2. **Significance**—Broaden your focus...why is this so important? What needs to be done to change this issue? Why should the reader care?
3. **Final Thought**—Ever watched *Jerry Springer*? He always ends his show with a final thought to leave the audience thinking. That's what you need to do here! It can be a larger concern, a consequence or solution, a challenge, a quote, a question, or a thoughtful statement.

****For more details on writing Conclusions, check out the Conclusions presentation.**