

# Writing a Persuasive Essay



**“THE CODE OF HAMMURABI”**

# Writing the Essay



Follow these steps to successfully complete this essay:

1. Carefully read and annotate “The Code of Hammurabi.”
2. Select three laws that are particularly just or unjust.
3. Write a five-paragraph essay reflecting on these laws.
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; mention your topic and give some background information.
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 walk about...***

# 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 your first law**—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. Use persuasive techniques like logic, emotion, and ethics.
- 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 6 sentences in length.

# 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.