

Persuasion Essay Notes-- 110

1. In the persuasion or argumentation essay, the writer takes a position on a topic, sometimes controversial, and defends his or her position with a valid argument. The purpose of the essay is to convince the reader to adopt the writer's views.
2. When writing a persuasion essay, select a topic that interests you. It can be something topical, currently in the news, or something that you find intriguing. However, remember that you want to select a topic that will hold the attention of the reader also. Lowering the speed limit on your street may be of concern to you but may not interest someone who lives on the other side of town. A trip to the library might be beneficial in helping you decide what to write about.
3. After selecting your topic, it is time to state your thesis. This should not be too difficult because the thesis sentence requires that the writer state a viewpoint or an opinion. An example of a thesis might be, "The tax on cigarettes should be increased substantially to help pay for the health insurance of uninsured children." The thesis sentence is usually placed at the beginning of the paper in the introduction.
4. It is probably better to narrate your paper in the third person. By doing this you may be able to demonstrate some objectivity. However, many persuasive essays are written in the first person. The writer must make the final decision.
5. The body of the essay will support your thesis. This is where you will supply the reader with a logical argument based on sound evidence. What is sound evidence? This type of evidence can consist of facts (things that can be proved), statistics, expert opinion, and relevant anecdotes (short stories that support your position). You should also use valid reasoning and sound logic when constructing your persuasion essay.

6. The writer of a persuasion essay should be especially aware of the tone of the paper. The tone is the writer's attitude toward the subject and toward the readers and is determined, in part, by word choices. The audience will usually be your peers, especially those individuals who have not yet made up their minds. You should try not to let your emotions become too much a part of the essay. A valid, comprehensive argument will sway the reader more often than an overly emotional appeal. You should also be courteous and respectful of those holding differing opinions. Effectively rebut opposing arguments; don't ridicule them.

7. In the conclusion of the persuasion essay, it is best to restate your position and make a final appeal to the reader. The concluding sentence is very important; it may be the last statement in your essay that the reader reads and one of the critical factors in convincing him or her that your position is credible.

These are some topics that you might want to consider:

nuclear power	technology	censorship issues
abortion	population control	gay rights issues
cloning	euthanasia	health care
capital punishment	animal rights	drinking age
legalization of drugs	immigrant issues	children's rights
welfare reform	environmental issues	TV violence
juveniles in the court system	sex education	tobacco issues
gun control	gender issues	sports for children