

Persuasive Essay Outline

- Students will complete a **5 paragraph persuasive essay**.
- It will be **typed** in **12** point font, **Times New Roman**, **1 inch margins**, **double spaced** and a minimum **1000** words in length.
- You must include a minimum of **4** researched articles/resources to support your issue. Resources must be credible, reliable, and valid.
- A **Works Cited** page must be included at the end of your paper as well as **parenthetical documentation** throughout the paper (**MLA** format).

In persuasive writing, a writer takes a position FOR or AGAINST an issue and writes to convince the reader to believe or do something.

Paragraph #1: Introduction

- HOOK your reader (unusual detail, stats, outrageous statement, powerful quote...)
- Topic sentence... What is your topic?
- Importance of your topic
- Thesis/focus of paper (A statement of position)
- Organization sentence (What will be in the other paragraphs- state your three best reasons to support your thesis)
- **Do not make it personal so do not use personal pronouns. Make it definitive.**

Paragraphs #2/#3/#4/: Body

- Topic sentence to support thesis
- Specific evidence, examples, statistics or ideas/opinions that are supported with evidence or a convincing argument
- Include reasoning, emotional and strong language (“It is essential...”)
- Counter arguments and the rationale for their ineffectiveness should be included
- Concluding/transition sentence
- Use adequate transitions between paragraphs as they make it easy for the reader to follow the logic of the presentation

**Broad generalizations or personal opinions to persuade the reader that your stated position is a valid one are NOT effective.*

- Be sure to use proper citations ...**argument** → **evidence** → **source**
- Paraphrase and cite...not plagiarize!

Paragraph #5: Conclusion

- Re-state the initial argument and position
- Re-state your 3 compelling pieces of information (paragraphs 2,3,4)
- Strong conclusion