

## Kind of Essays



### Persuasive Essays

By Persuasive, we mean tending or having the power to persuade a persuasive argument. Through persuasive essays, you have to persuade the reader that your point of view has some validity by adopting logical reasoning to show that one idea is more legitimate than the other idea. Basically all essays are persuasive essays. Sometimes you are assigned a controversial topic such as different law acts, political related issues, and nuclear issues for your persuasive essays, but an essay on the meaning of an article or poetry is also a persuasive essay. The only difference being that through persuasive essays your attempt or task is to persuade a reader to take some kind of action or adopt a certain point of view.

When planning a persuasive essay, follow these steps

1. **Choose your position.** Which side of the issue or problem are you going to write about, and what solution will you offer? Know the purpose of your essay.
2. **Analyze your audience.** Decide if your audience agrees with you, is neutral, or disagrees with your position.
3. **Research your topic.** A persuasive essay must provide specific and convincing evidence. Often it is necessary to go beyond your own knowledge and experience. You might need to go to the library or interview people who are experts on your topic.
4. **Structure your essay.** Figure out what evidence you will include and in what order you will present the evidence. Remember to consider your purpose, your audience, and you topic.

The following criteria are essential to produce an effective argument:

**Be well informed about your topic.** To add to your knowledge of a topic, read thoroughly about it, using legitimate sources. Take notes.

**Test your thesis.** Your thesis, i.e., argument, must have two sides. It must be debatable. If you can write down a thesis statement directly opposing your own, you will ensure that your own argument is debatable.

**Disprove the opposing argument.** Understand the opposite viewpoint of your position and then counter it by providing contrasting evidence or by finding mistakes and inconsistencies in the logic of the opposing argument.

**Support your position with evidence.** Remember that your evidence must appeal to reason. The following are different ways to support your argument: Facts  
- A powerful means of convincing, facts can come from your reading, observation, or personal experience.

**Note:** Do not confuse facts with truths. A "truth" is an idea believed by many people, but it cannot be proven.

**Statistics** - These can provide excellent support. Be sure your statistics come from responsible sources. Always cite your sources.

**Quotes** - Direct quotes from leading experts that support your position are invaluable.

**Examples** - Examples enhance your meaning and make your ideas concrete. They are the proof.