

## English - Palacios

Independent Writing Assignment: Write 5 complete persuasive essays for credit.

- Choose from the list of attached topics from Persuasive Writing Prompts
- Review the Checklist for Persuasive Writing to understand the writing expectations
- Use the Practice Guide for Informal Outline and 5 Paragraph Essay Outline to plan your writing (write on separate paper)
- Begin a draft on separate paper
- Proofread and edit your work
- Review the Checklist for Persuasive Writing to ensure you have completed all parts
- Submit completed work to my box. Essays will be graded on a scale of 1-4.

# 1

## Persuasive Writing Prompts

**C**hoose **one of** the persuasive writing prompts from the list below and write an essay. A certain number of prompts have model essays in the answer section that you can use to compare and contrast your writing. A scoring guide, or rubric, is also included in the answer section. You can use this guide to give you an idea of the way your essay may be graded. If you have trouble interpreting the scoring guide, see a teacher or professor for help. Sample responses to the prompts in bold can be found at the end of the section.

- 1.** Many people believe that television violence has a negative effect on society because it promotes violence. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your response.
- 2.** According to some people, elderly drivers should be required to reapply for their driving licenses because with age comes diminished vision, hearing, and reaction time. How do you feel about this issue? Explain what you think should be done and why.

## 501 Writing Prompts

3. Medical researchers, cosmetic companies, and others often perform experiments on animals. Many people feel that experimentation on animals is wrong and should be stopped immediately because animals do feel pain, and there are other alternatives. How do you feel? State your position and explain your reasons.
4. In order to save money, your principal is thinking about canceling all field trips for the remainder of the year. Write an essay persuading him or her to allow students to continue attending field trips. Use specific reasons and examples to support your response.
5. Some people are actively involved in promoting and supporting a cause, such as the release of international political prisoners or protecting the environment. Is there a cause you actively support? Write an essay convincing readers to support that cause.
6. Since the cloning of the sheep Dolly, there has been much debate over whether or not human beings should be cloned. Many people feel this is a violation of the natural order of things and that all research in the area of human cloning should be banned. Others feel that this is a natural progression of science and human evolution and that research in the area of human cloning should be a priority. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.
7. **Many parents give children a weekly or monthly allowance regardless of their behavior because they believe an allowance teaches children to be financially responsible. Other parents only give children an allowance as a reward for completing chores or when they have behaved properly. Explain what you think parents should do and why.**
8. Many people volunteer their time to help others, either through non-profit organizations, churches, or other charitable venues. Write an essay convincing readers to find a charity and volunteer their time.
9. All-girl schools have been gaining popularity in recent years because of the belief that girls learn better when they aren't

## 501 Writing Prompts

competing with or intimidated by boys, who statistically get more attention in the classroom. Do you think single-sex schools are a good idea? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

- 10.** We all have favorite activities that we enjoy. Write an essay convincing readers to try the activity that you enjoy most.
- 11.** Research shows that the average American watches as much as six hours of television each day. Do you think this is too much? Write an essay convincing readers to spend less time in front of the TV.
- 12.** Many junior high and high schools around the country now require students to spend a certain number of hours each term doing volunteer work or community service. Some people believe this is an excellent idea that promotes good citizenship and cultivates compassion. Others feel that forced volunteerism is not volunteerism at all. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.
- 13.** Most states allow people to get a driver's license at the age of 16. Some people feel that 16 is much too young for the responsibility that comes with driving a car and that teenagers should not be allowed to drive until the age of 18. In your opinion, at what age should people be allowed to drive, and why?
- 14.** As part of the "war on drugs" and in reaction to an increase in school violence, many schools across the nation now conduct targeted searches of student lockers and backpacks. Although the Supreme Court has ruled that public school officials have the right to search students' persons and property when they have reasonable cause to suspect weapons or drugs, many people feel this is a gross violation of students' right to privacy. Others feel that since school officials are responsible for the well-being of students while they are in the building, they have the right to search for drugs or weapons at any time. How do you feel about this issue? State your position and explain your reasons with specific examples.

## 501 Writing Prompts

- 15.** Write an essay convincing readers to break a specific habit that is harmful to their physical, emotional, or financial health.
- 16.** In many countries, citizens are required to serve in the military for a year or more. Do you believe the United States should institute a similar practice? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.
- 17.** Have you ever traveled to a place that you found very meaningful and rewarding? Write an essay that persuades others to visit this important place.
- 18.** Many of us spend hours in front of our computers and communicate more by e-mail or instant-messaging than in person. Some people believe that this is good because it helps shy people communicate more openly with others. Others believe that computer communication prevents us from developing interpersonal skills and limits our ability to have meaningful relationships with others. How do you feel about this issue? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.
- 19.** Some companies offer a paternity leave that allows fathers to stay home with their newborns for several weeks while still earning partial pay and benefits. Do you think this is a good policy? Why or why not? Explain your answer.
- 20.** According to some health organizations, many foods on our grocery store shelves are made with genetically modified ingredients. Most of these foods, however, do not have a GMO (genetically modified organism) label. Do you think there should be a law requiring manufacturers to label foods containing GMOs? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.
- 21.** More and more farmers and food manufacturers are genetically modifying their crops to reduce susceptibility to disease, improve flavor, and reduce costs. Do you think genetically modifying foods is a good idea? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

SEAT #

NAME:  
PERIOD:

## Checklist for Persuasive Writing

SELF	PEER	THE BODY...
_____	_____	Chooses ONE position and sticks with it (does not change sides, but may mention opposing other side)
_____	_____	Gives a minimum of three reasons to support the position
_____	_____	Uses each reason as the topic sentence/main idea of the paragraph
_____	_____	Limits use of personal opinion, but rather uses facts, examples, details, and experiences that follow the topic sentence
_____	_____	Includes concession and/or opposing view
		<b>THE INTRODUCTION...</b>
_____	_____	Opens with a "hook"
_____	_____	Includes a thesis statement. Chooses ONE position and sticks with it
_____	_____	Mentions reasons to support the viewpoint
		<b>THE CONCLUSION...</b>
_____	_____	Restates the thesis
_____	_____	Summarizes most important points
		<b>OVERALL, THE PAPER IS...</b>
_____	_____	Is organized
_____	_____	Includes transitions from one topic to the next
_____	_____	Is free from major spelling and grammatical errors

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Practice Guide for an Informal Outline

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Introductory Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

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**Block out your essay or report.**



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Transition \_\_\_\_\_)

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*(continued)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice Guide for an Informal Outline *(continued)*



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(Transition \_\_\_\_\_ )



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Conclusion \_\_\_\_\_

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Name

Date

Period

## 5 Paragraph Essay Outline

Introduction

Thesis

Body Paragraph 1

Body Paragraph 2

Body Paragraph 3

Conclusion