



**I TAKE ISSUE WITH...  
PERSUASIVE WRITING**

# I TAKE ISSUE WITH...

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

**“In persuasive or argumentative writing, we try to convince others to agree with our facts, share our values, accept our argument and conclusions, *and adopt our way of thinking.*”**

Students often score poorly on persuasive writing assessments because they have no authentic audience or purpose; thus their counterarguments and rebuttals are weak. Yet, research shows that you are capable of anticipating your readers’ beliefs and expectations when writing for familiar readers to get something you want and when prompted to think about your audience’s perspective while writing. Today you are going to prove this.

The first step for writing a persuasive essay is to decide what you are trying to persuade someone to believe. Is there a compelling social issue you’d like to correct, a situation within your school that you’d like to change, an issue from history that you’d like to address, or maybe even a political condition you’d like to explore—the possibilities are endless! Here’s a list of possible topics:

EDUCATION	HISTORY	SOCIAL & POLITICAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Uniforms</li><li>• School Choice</li><li>• Bilingual Education</li><li>• Locker Searches</li><li>• Homework</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women’s Rights</li><li>• Civil Rights</li><li>• Vietnam War</li><li>• Terrorism</li><li>• Genocide</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Death Penalty</li><li>• Cruelty to Animals</li><li>• Gun Control</li><li>• Cloning</li><li>• Texting &amp; Driving</li></ul>

Once you’ve decided on an issue, it’s time to begin your research! Remember that the following elements toward building a good persuasive essay include:

- Establishing facts** to support an argument
- Forming and stating conclusions**
- Clarifying relevant values** for your audience (perspective)
- "Persuading" your audience** that your conclusions are based upon the agreed-upon facts and shared values
- Prioritizing, editing, and/or sequencing** the facts and values in importance to build the argument
- Having the confidence** to communicate your “persuasion” in writing

# RESEARCH AND SOURCES

PLEASE ATTACH ALL COLLECTED INFORMATION TO THIS BOOKLET WHEN SUBMITTING

PARAGRAPH #1	IDENTIFY YOUR ISSUE:	
	EXPLAIN THE ISSUE: <i>(Give an overview)</i>	
	MY POSITION:	
PARAGRAPH #2	SUPPORT #1:	
	SOURCE:	
	COUNTER ARGUMENT #1:	
	SOURCE:	
	SUPPORT #2:	
SOURCE:		

<b>PARAGRAPH #3</b>	SUPPORT #3:	
	SOURCE:	
	COUNTER ARGUMENT #2:	
	SOURCE:	
<b>PARAGRAPH #4</b>	SUPPORT #4:	
	SOURCE:	
	MY POSITION RESTATED:	
	THANK YOU:	

# FORMATTING YOUR LETTER

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## “THE STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS”

**REMEMBER THAT YOUR LETTER SHOULD BE SINGLE-SPACED  
WITH THE LINE SPACING OPTIONS SET TO ZERO (0).**

Sender’s Street Address  
City, Province Postal Code

Month Day, Year

Receiver’s Name  
Receiver’s Company / Organization Name  
Street Address  
City, Province Postal Code

Dear Receiver’s Last Name,

### **PARAGRAPH #1**

*Remember that you do not indent business letter paragraphs; below are just bullet points of discussion*

- Introduce the issue** you will be discussing.
- Outline the general facts of the argument—what are the major pros / cons—should have at least two distinct ideas as these will become paragraph two and three.
- State your position (whether you **ACCEPT** or **REJECT**) and outline your argument in brief.

*Leave a space between this and the next paragraph*

### **PARAGRAPH #2**

*Remember that you do not indent business letter paragraphs; below are just bullet points of discussion*

- Introduce the overarching idea that you will be discussing in this paragraph.
- State your first piece of evidence (Support #1).
  - Include your source material—using direct quotations and proper PPA integration.
  - Explain why this evidence **proves** your position.
- State the opposing view to your position (Counter Argument #1).
  - Again, include your source material—using direct quotations and proper PPA integration.
  - Explain how **despite** this evidence, **your position still stands**.
- State your second piece of evidence (Support #2).
  - Include your source material—using direct quotations and proper PPA integration.
  - Again, explain why this evidence **proves** your position.
- Summarize your argument thus far—be sure to remind your readers of your firm position.

*Leave a space between this and the next paragraph*

### PARAGRAPH #3

*Remember that you do not indent business letter paragraphs; below are just bullet points of discussion*

- Introduce the overarching idea that you will be discussing in this paragraph.
- State your third piece of evidence (Support #3).
  - Include your source material—using direct quotations and proper PPA integration.
  - Explain why this evidence **proves** your position.
- State the opposing view to your position (Counter Argument #2).
  - Again, include your source material—using direct quotations and proper PPA integration.
  - Explain how **despite** this evidence, **your position still stands**.
- State your second piece of evidence (Support #4).
  - Include your source material—using direct quotations and proper PPA integration.
  - Again, explain why this evidence **proves** your position.
- Summarize your argument thus far—be sure to remind your readers of your firm position.

*Leave a space between this and the next paragraph*

### PARAGRAPH #4

- Restate your position and briefly summarize your key points.
- Make this paragraph matter by being short and to the point. You need to be firm with your position and remind your readers of the strong support you have provided.
- Let your reader know if/when you can be contacted.
- Provide your contact information—phone or email.
- Thank your reader for their **time and attention**.

Sincerely,

*Signature* (actually sign, by hand, in this space)

Print Name

