

## How to Write an Opinion Essay

What is persuasive writing? It's very simple. Persuasive writing is when a writer takes a position FOR or AGAINST an issue and writes to convince the reader to believe or do something. It is actually trying to talk someone into agreeing with you. After all, who in fifth grade doesn't like to argue!?

We all have our own opinions of things, as well. So how do we persuade someone to agree with our opinion? We need more than just our opinions; we need facts and examples to back up our opinions.

Persuasive writing follows a particular format. It has an introduction, a body where the argument is developed, and a conclusion. After writing a persuasive essay, like any other genre of writing, you should read, revise, edit, and revise again before writing the final draft.

The introduction is the first paragraph. It should have a "hook or grabber" to catch the reader's attention. This sentence would be your ROAG! Make sure you let the reader know how you feel about the topic by writing a statement of opinion sentence. This sentence is one of the most important sentences in the entire paper! As with other introductions, try to use an exclamatory sentence and an interrogative one. A question is an excellent way to begin an introduction. A quote or "dialogue" is another great beginning! In our class we used an ice cream graphic organizer and the whipped cream on top was the introduction.

The three scoops of ice cream make up the body of the essay. Each scoop is identical and stands for one paragraph. Each paragraph should begin with a solid reason why you believe the way you do about this topic. However, you can't stop with just three reasons. These reasons should be explained and proven! That's why we need details and me details (me-tails). That's your chance to prove your reasons by giving evidence to show your reasons are valid ones. Each of the three middle paragraphs needs to end by restating the reason in a different way. As you write just be sure to write convincing reasons and give details to explain the reasons.

Last, you will need a concluding paragraph or closure, as it is sometimes called. You need to have a strong conclusion. Also, you need to add a counterpoint argument. A counterpoint is when you predict what your reader will say, and you argue that prediction before they have a chance. Finally, end your persuasive essay by restating your statement of opinion.

If you follow this plan, you should score high on the state writing assessment test coming up soon. You can do it! Make me proud of you.