

Persuasive Essay Assignment

STEP 1: Read the prompt. Put a check next to the topic you're going to write about.

- Write a letter to current 6th graders persuading them of three important things they should do in order to be successful in school during 7th grade.
- Write a letter to the PTSA (Parent/Teacher School Association) in which you persuade them of three things that should be changed at Benicia Middle School to make it a better place.

STEP 2: Decide on what you're going to write about for your chosen topic. In the space below, brainstorm a list of sub-topics you could write about. Then put a star next to the three main points you're going to discuss in your essay.

STEP 3: Make a list of pros and cons for each of your sub-topics.

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|----------------|------|
| Main Point #1: | |
| Pros | Cons |
| | |

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Main Point #2: | |
| Pros | Cons |
| | |

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Main Point #3: | |
| Pros | Cons |
| | |

STEP 4: Write your thesis statement.

STEP 5: Organize and outline your ideas. *On a separate sheet of paper*, make a formal topic outline to organize your ideas for your essay. Follow the pattern below. Remember, you can expand upon A, B, and C with 1, 2, and 3.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Grabber – anecdote, quotation, startling fact or statistic, rhetorical question, or description
 - B. Background information – why you’re writing the essay; the essay's purpose
 - C. Thesis statement – single sentence stating the main idea of your essay

- II. Main Point #1
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

- III. Main Point #2
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

- IV. Main Point #3 (Address a counterargument)
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

- V. Conclusion
 - A. Summary statement – sum up the main idea of your essay; restate thesis in a new way
 - B. Call to action