

Persuasive Paragraph

Ideas for a persuasive paragraph: Pick one of the following items, or suggest one of your own, and write a persuasive argument about it. You are trying to make people believe in your point of view. The right to express and write about something you care about is a protected, and in many cases these are the things that people petition their government to change!

1. Should school students face a mandatory drug test?
2. Should school prayer be prohibited?
3. Should the age to vote be reduced to 16?
4. Should the Double Jeopardy Rule - nobody can be tried twice for the same offence - abolished?
5. Should people face stiff penalties for animal cruelty?
6. Should there be a curfew for people under 18 years?
7. Should adopted children have the right to know who their biological parents are?
8. Should school authorities have the right to search students' lockers/or personal belongings?
9. Should students have the right to have cell phones in their possession during the school day?
10. Should vaccines be required for all school children?
11. Should performance enhancing drugs (such as steroids) be illegal in sports?
12. Should convicted criminals be allowed the freedom of speech/press on the internet or in a book about their crimes?
13. Should children 13 year olds- 16 year olds be denied access to violent video games and movies with mature ratings?
14. Should volunteer civilian groups such as the Minutemen be allowed to patrol the borders and catch violators?
15. Should the drinking age be lowered from 21 to a younger age?
16. Should full body scanners be used at airports?
17. Should junk food vending machines/pop machines be banned at middle school?
18. Should homework at elementary and middle school be eliminated?
19. Should the gambling age be lowered?
20. Should the school provide a elective study hall during the day for homework?
21. Should coaches face penalties when their team members get hurt/die?
22. Should the ownership of certain animals be illegal? i.e. Pitbulls
23. Should middle school students be able to leave campus for lunch?

Links: To more ideas or pros and cons

<http://www.middleschooldebate.com/topics/topicresearch.htm>

http://www.idebate.org/debatabase/topic_suggestions.php

<http://www.persuasive-speechesnow.com/persuasive-speech-TOPICS.html>

Persuasive Paragraph

Writing a persuasive **paragraph**: You are trying to make people believe your point of view. The right to express and write about something you care about is protected, and in many cases these are the things that people petition their government to change! Now you are going to write a persuasive paragraph.

Steps to writing a persuasive paragraph:

1. **Reflect**- Choose a topic and answer yes or no. Then reflect (brainstorm on paper) on why you feel the way you do.
2. **Investigate**-Talk to other people and get their opinion- pay close attention to those people who don't agree with you...ask them why and discuss why you feel the differently! These are the people you are trying to persuade!
3. **Read**- Gather some facts or figures that will support your position. You should include this in your writing to be convincing! You might want to use the words "Pros" and "Cons" in your search.
4. **Think**- Make sure you include strong reasonable arguments on both sides of the issue but especially make sure that the other argument sounds weak! Don't include statements like "because I like/don't like" or "because other people..."
5. **Show**- Use lots of examples or show the support you found for your argument. Supported facts are the best! (Might help <http://www.procon.org/>)
6. **Organize your writing**:
 1. Write a clear opening that is interesting, states your opinion, and stays positive! Magic 3 **State your position**
 2. Next state your arguments/reasons for arguing about this topic. Then separate each reason into its own sentence followed by support or examples sentences. This helps prove your point!!!
Magic 3 **Support your statement with examples.**
 3. Save your best argument for last.
 4. Finally restate your position and add a call to action.
Magic 3 **Summarize your position.**