Persuasive Writing Essay Guidelines

Persuasive writing, also known as the argument essay, attempts to convince the reader a point of view is valid or persuades the reader to agree with our facts, share our values, accept our argument and conclusions, and adopt our way of thinking. Persuasive essays should include documentation which will require research. By investigating your topic and including supporting comments from authorities, you give credibility to your argument.

Considerations

- Developed around a limited topic that is debatable, meaningful or important
- Makes a clear thesis statement with summary of arguments to follow
- Use specific evidence, examples and statistics and not broad generalizations or personal opinions to persuade
- Detailed support with examples and specific vocabulary
- Consider your purpose, audience and topic.
- Forming and stating conclusions that deal with opposing views
- Logically organized with relevant information included
- Different than expository in that it does more than explain, the writer takes a stand and endeavors to persuade the reader to take that same stand

Authentic Reading Example

"Reading gives us many benefits. When we read, we can go places we have never been. We can learn about anything that interests us and see the world in new ways. Finally, we can get to know other people and understand more about ourselves.

The places to which we travel in our reading may be different from our own environment and yet they may also be similar. We can read books about the past. Some of these are from hundreds of years ago. From these books we can learn about what people ate and how they lived. We can find out how they worked, what challenges they faced, and what tools they used.

Other books take us to faraway places where people speak languages different from our own. Through books, we can also travel to imaginary realms. We can visit the places where dragons and knights battle or where space travelers try to arrange intergalactic peace.

There is a book to help us know and understand any subject in which we are interested. We may want to learn about sunspots, polar bears, volcanoes, or glaciers. We may want to know how the human brain, computers, television, or satellites work. We may want to find out how people make things such as automobiles, French fries, or violins. There are books on all of these subjects.

In all of these books, we are learning about ourselves and about our world. No matter where we go in our stories, no matter which we meet, reading helps us to know our own world better than we did before."

Questions for the Reading Example

1. It is the writer’s opinion that reading brings us many benefits. List four arguments that the writer uses to try to persuade you to agree.

2. Write a sentence or two describing the evidence the author uses to support each of the four arguments you have listed for #1.

3. Use the chart below to help show the structure of the writer's argument in *On the Benefits of Reading*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVIDENCE WRITER USES TO SUPPORT THE ARGUMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAIN IDEA OF THE ESSAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOPIC OF PARAGRAPH 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOPIC OF PARAGRAPH 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOPIC OF PARAGRAPH 3</td>
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<td>TOPIC OF PARAGRAPH 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOPIC OF PARAGRAPH 5</td>
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