

PERSUASIVE WRITING

In the persuasive domain, students will craft a *persuasive* piece in which their intent is to analyze, explain, persuade and influence. As this is the most abstract of the domains, it may also be the most challenging. The writer tells why and how about a subject. They borrow from the other three domains to make their points, and they emphasize organization and development.

K – 3rd Grade **(Talk me into it!)**

At the K-3 level, persuasive writing sounds like it might be too complicated. Not so, if the child has many opportunities to first practice the elements of persuasive writing orally. Persuasive writing is simply the writer (speaker) trying to win the reader (listener) over to his/her point of view. How often do children already do this? "I want to stay up a little longer!" "I don't need to eat spinach!" When your child adds convincing arguments (reasons) to statements such as these, he/she is practicing persuasive writing. Try some of the other possibilities listed below:

Oral

- Think of a good reason the family needs a vacation. Share it with the whole family.
- Look at advertisements in the newspaper or magazines. Talk about how they try to persuade the reader.
- Watch commercials on television. Try making up your own commercial to tape or video. Be sure to give specific examples of why someone should buy your product.
- Pretend you're running for president of a club. Convince the audience you should be president.
- Convince your family that they should read the book you just finished.

Written

- Design a poster convincing the family that they should eat your favorite food this week.
- Write or draw an advertisement for your favorite candy
- Design a flyer telling why you would be good to hire for odd jobs.
- Design a tourist brochure persuading people to visit your town.
- Write a letter to a television network persuading them to keep your favorite program on TV.
- Write to the mayor convincing him that there should be more playgrounds.
- Write to a world leader asking him/her to do more to help fight poverty.

4th – 8th Grade

A *persuasive* piece gives the writer's opinion on the topic and tries to get the reader to agree with it. When you write a persuasive paragraph, you should give facts and examples to back up your opinion. Otherwise, you won't convince your reader that your opinion is the right one.

As a parent, you can help your child by assisting them in thinking through the following points as part of their pre-writing planning.

- Who is my audience? (e.g. - newspaper readers, CEO of Burger King, Senator Jones, etc.)

- What issue do you want to address? (e.g. – quality of food at Burger King, which comic strip to include/exclude from the comics page, raising or lowering the voting age, etc.)
- What will be your position? (Make sure that the position statement is clear and that they take a firm stand.)
- What arguments will they make to support their position? (Help them to clarify these important points.)

Some writing activities might include:

- Editorial piece (e.g. – Why people should recycle)
- Letter to the editor arguing a position on an issue
- Persuasive speech
- Dialogue to persuade
- Library / research paper supporting a position with facts

Additional Support

Our adopted textbooks provide varying levels of support for writing. Refer to your specific text for further information.

“Generic” writing packets can be found on our webpage. These contain more information and details for both parent-teachers and students. <http://hcs.hickmanschools.org/writing-packets.html>