

Name:

Persuasive Writing 101: The Process

Period:

Thesis:

Brainstorm reasons/proof:

Introduction: Your introduction should begin broad and condense down to end with your **thesis**. You may use a global event, an anecdote (a short story/incident), background/general information etc. to lead up to your thesis, which should be the *last* sentence in your introduction. (Don't give away your body paragraphs in your introduction; (i.e. "School uniforms should not be instituted because they are w,x, y, and z"). Also, don't start with a question or a definition.

Example of a narrative introduction:

Topic: *Should students be allowed to leave campus for lunch?*

Thesis: *Students should be allowed to leave campus for lunch.*

Alex Van Hoobie Doobie hates school. He is the victim of the school lunchtime policy. He is small and always gets pushed to the back of the line. Unfortunately, he always has the dreaded "C lunch", which means he commonly gets little food because the cafeteria has run out. He is trapped and has no options. Each day grows a little less helpful. . . Alex's position is not uncommon. Many people suffer because students cannot leave for lunch. Therefore, something needs to change. Students should be allowed to leave campus for lunch.

Example of a general introduction:

Topic: *Should high school give homework?*

Thesis: *High schools should not assign homework.*

High schools are designed to prepare students for college and the working world. As part of many high schools, teachers assign homework to meet these goals. While homework is widely accepted in schools, it is not necessarily a good idea. There are better ways for schools to meet their objectives, which is why high school students should not be assigned homework.

For body paragraphs:

Transition: Help the reader see the connection between the evidences included in the paragraph. This usually can be captured as a comparison or a contrast (i.e. *similarly. . . on the other hand. . . this is further supported by. . etc.*)

Topic Sentence: One sentence revealing the specific topic of *this paragraph*—this is a sentence that should mention the main idea, opinion, and a reason.

Evidence: Back up statements and opinions with proof. (Examples of proof: statistics, quotes by experts, specific details, examples-- both historical & literary, analogy (comparison), and deductive reasoning (general to specific). All words, ideas, facts or data used from another source (other than your brain) must be cited properly. **Not evidence: summaries, repeating yourself, and questions** **
Parenthetical documentation = (authors last name + page number).

Explanation: Explain what your proof means, why it is significant, and how it connects to your thesis. (Think: "So what?")

**Repeat the steps for topic sentence, evidence, and explanation for each body paragraph.*

Conclusion: The conclusion is set up opposite of the introduction; in the conclusion, you should *start* with your thesis and then move to more general ideas and the "bigger picture" afterward. The point of the conclusion is to explain the importance of the thesis and how it should answer the question, "So what?" and/or "Why does it matter?".. Then provide a call to action; give your readers something extra to think about.

Thesis: *Teengagers should not text while driving.*

Example: In conclusion, teens should not be allowed to text while driving; the recent change in the law was a good one. Legislators should not listen to voice for dissent. Police should be vigilant in enforcing the law. Parents should encourage teens to obey the law, and teens should recognize the risks of driving while distracted. No text message is worth a life.

