

## Persuasive Paragraph File

### Sample Persuasive Paragraph Prewriting

Topic: Homework

Topic Sentence (opinion): Homework is an important part of the learning process in middle school.

REASONS:      (1) additional practice  
                  (2) time for longer assignments  
                  (3) review

PREWRITING (plan): Reasons with supporting ideas

- (1) ADDITIONAL PRACTICE
- (2) classes too short for adequate practice
- (3) independent practice
- (4) TIME FOR LONGER ASSIGNMENTS
- (5) compositions
- (6) reports and special projects
- (7) students' different working speeds
- (8) REVIEW
- (9) new material and old material
- (10) tests and grades

### Sample Persuasive Paragraph

Homework is an important part of the learning process in middle school. One reason is that homework gives students additional practice of skills covered in class. Middle school classes are too short to teach a new concept and practice it sufficiently for students to master. Students need both guided practice in class and independent practice at home. Another reason for homework is that it provides time to complete longer assignments. For example, the ideal composition process allows time for students to think and to reflect on their ideas, as well as time to revise and to proofread their writing. Also, reports and special projects often require research that can not always be done at school. In addition, since all students do not work at the same speed, giving students time at home to finish work keeps them from falling behind. Finally, the most important reason for homework is that it ensures review. New material and old material are practiced in daily assignments. Students who do their homework daily are prepared for tests and make better grades. In conclusion, not only is homework essential to mastering new skills and maintaining previously learned skills, but it also guarantees constant review and provides time for longer assignments, as well as additional time for students who need it. Students, do your daily homework, make better grades, and learn more!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

Persuasive Paragraph Assessment Rubric: 50 points possible (53, including the Bonus Points)

<u>Topic Sentence:</u>	0	1	2	3	4
FIRST REASON (with transition)		0	1	2	3
SUPPORT	0	1	2	3	4
SECOND REASON (with transition)		0	1	2	3
SUPPORT	0	1	2	3	4
THIRD REASON (with transition)		0	1	2	3
SUPPORT	0	1	2	3	4
<u>CLOSING</u>	0	1	2	3	4
<u>FOCUS</u> Presents a clear main idea. Stays on the topic of that main idea.		0	1	2	3
<u>FINAL COPY SKILLS</u> Manuscript Form Written neatly on one side of the paper, double-spaced.	0	1	2	3	4
<u>BONUS</u> for writing in blue or black ink or for typing					3
<u>FIRST DRAFT</u> with <u>evidence of revision and proofreading</u>		1	2	3	4
<u>SELF-REVISION CHECKLIST</u>					2
<u>PEER REVISION CHECKLIST</u>					2
<i>Proofread by</i> signed (by a different person than the one who did the Peer Revision Checklist)					2
<u>PREWRITING</u>	0	1	2	3	4

Persuasive Paragraph Checklist

YES	NO	
		1. Is there an interesting topic sentence that states clearly what the paragraph is about?
		2. Is the topic sentence followed by a sentence that states the first reason?
		3. Is there a clear signal or transition that this is the first reason?
		4. Is the sentence containing the first reason followed by one or two sentences giving support for the first reason?
		5. Are the sentences supporting the first reason followed by a sentence that states the second reason?
		6. Is there a clear signal or transition that this is the second reason?
		7. Is the sentence containing the second reason followed by one or two sentences giving support for the second reason?
		8. Are the sentences supporting the second reason followed by a sentence that states the third reason?
		9. Is there a clear signal or transition that this is the third reason?
		10. Is the sentence containing the third reason followed by one or two sentences giving support for the third reason?
		11. Is there a closing sentence?
		12. Does the closing have a clear signal or transition?
		13. Is the paragraph focused; that is, does it present a clear main idea and stay on the topic of that main idea?

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_



Self-Revision Checklist

YES	NO	
		1. Is there an interesting topic sentence that states clearly what the paragraph is about?
		2. Is the topic sentence followed by a sentence that states the first reason?
		3. Is there a clear signal or transition that this is the first reason?
		4. Is the sentence containing the first reason followed by one or two sentences giving support for the first reason?
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		10. Is the sentence containing the third reason followed by one or two sentences giving support for the third reason?
		11. Is there a closing sentence?
		12. Does the closing have a clear signal or transition?
		13. Is the paragraph focused; that is, does it present a clear main idea and stay on the topic of that main idea?

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
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Peer Revision Checklist

YES	NO	
		1. Is there an interesting topic sentence that states clearly what the paragraph is about?
		2. Is the topic sentence followed by a sentence that states the first reason?
		3. Is there a clear signal or transition that this is the first reason?
		4. Is the sentence containing the first reason followed by one or two sentences giving support for the first reason?
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Date \_\_\_\_\_