

## Why should I even care about how to write a persuasive essay?

- The Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs) for Grade 11 require students to learn to make and analyze persuasive presentations, as well as learning to plan and organize ideas for writing, with an emphasis on persuasion
- The SOLs also require students to develop skills in persuasive writing with respect to enduring issues and to determine how divergent viewpoints have been addressed in Virginia and United States History
- It is good practice for college and/or future jobs!

### **\*REMEMBER\***

Most students, even at the high school level, have difficulty writing stories, reports, and essays so don't get discouraged!

## Additional Websites for help:

- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/writing/index.asp?topic=Persuasive>
- <http://www.writingfix.com/>

# How to write a Persuasive Essay



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It is Monday morning and you are in your 11<sup>th</sup> grade English class. You have been learning different styles of writing over the past month and, on this particular morning, your teacher tells you that she wants to test 'what you have learned.' She asks you to write a persuasive essay on any topic you wish and to have it completed by Friday. You panic slightly because writing is not your strongest area and you are fuzzy on some of the steps for writing a persuasive essay.

**DON'T PANIC!! Take a deep breath, gather up what information you know, and refer to the below information to guide you through the process.**

### What is the purpose of a persuasive essay:

- The purpose of a persuasive essay is to convince his or her readers that a particular point of view is a good one

### What should I keep in mind while starting the writing process?

- Spend a good amount of time creating goals and organizing ideas before writing

- Use a pleasant tone in your essay
- Use appropriate vocabulary
- Identify your main idea or point of view
- Create your own imaginary audience and think about how these people will respond to your statements
- Use evidence, such as statistics or facts, to support your viewpoint
- Try to anticipate concerns and questions a reader might have about your topic
- Present a strong conclusion

### How to organize your persuasive essay:

#### Step 1: Introduction

- The introduction should grab your reader's attention and provide background information on your topic
- The paragraph should end with a clear statement of your main idea or point of view

#### Step 2: Body paragraphs

- Your body paragraphs should present the points in support of your main idea
- Have each body paragraph focus on one point
- Provide evidence or examples for each

#### Step 3: Opposing view

- After presenting supporting points, develop one paragraph to explain and argue against any opposing views

#### Step 4: Conclusion

- Restate your main idea and supporting points in a creative way
- Try to leave your audience connected and persuaded by your perspective



