

Core A, Quarter 3 | Persuasive Essay Instructions

Prompt: Write a 5-paragraph persuasive essay on the topic of your choice. Your topic must have two sides that could be argued and you will pick which side you want to argue.

Your topic can be anything from a more serious topic like capital punishment to something fun and lighthearted. Have fun with the topic and pick something that interests you or that you are passionate about! ***Topics must be approved by the tutor and your parents.** General ideas: Argue that (dogs or cats) make a better pet. (Electric or Gasoline) engines are better. Why Christians should care about the environment. Why chocolate chip cookies are better than peanut butter cookies. Football is a better team sport than soccer (or vice versa). Why the book is better than the movie (for a specific title). The tutor will be using “Pineapple on pizza” in class to teach these concepts, so please do not choose that topic 😊

1) Thesis: Develop your thesis (no be verbs allowed!). Remember that a persuasive thesis must present the topic to the reader, provide an opinion, and state the argument you will make in the paper. It must also include 3 prongs that will guide the body paragraphs in your essay. Example: Pineapple belongs on pizza due to its health benefits, its flavor profile, and its texture.

Topic: Should pineapple be on pizza?

Opinion- yes, it belongs.

Arguments: the 3 prongs about health, flavor, and texture.

This will become the last sentence of your Introduction paragraph but should be included on every other assignment at the top.

2) Outline: Complete the handwritten “Keyphrase” Outline. Students should conduct some kind of research to use as evidence in their essays. This may include resources like the Bible, websites, books, magazine articles, etc. Students will need to bring this evidence to class with them, so please print it out or bring the book. If the article is very long, you can print the page with the citation information, and print only the pages being used as proof. Wikipedia is NOT a valid source. If you find something on that website, you must follow it to the source and take it from there. Add a creative title to your Outline, and carry it through all the next assignments. Specific requirements are found on the Weebly assignment. Submit with the signed parent checklist.

3) 1st Body Paragraph & 4) 2nd/3rd Body Paragraphs: (Two Assignments)

Turn your outline into complete sentences in paragraph form. Be sure to limit “be” verbs to interior sentences and use in-text citations for your evidence as appropriate. No contractions, first-person or second-person pronouns, or slang should be used. Check to make sure that every sentence is present and accounted for in the TAECTA ECC format (see next page). Please use the feedback from the first paragraph to correctly write the next two. It is easier to learn from one paragraph and proceed on the correct path than to correct three paragraphs! Submit with the signed parent checklist.

NEW CONCEPT ALERT!

The new component of this essay is **commentary**. It follows the evidence and tells WHY the evidence proves your assertion. Example:

Topic (prong): Pineapple makes pizza healthier (broad idea)

Assertion 1: Pineapple supports the immune system (more specific claim)

Evidence: quote a source saying that it has Vitamin C (with citation)

Commentary: explain that Vitamin C strengthens the immune system and prevents frequent illness.

Transition: Furthermore,

Assertion 2: Pineapple reduces inflammation (another more specific claim)

Evidence: Quote or details (from a different source) about it containing antioxidants (with citation)

Commentary: explain that antioxidants reduce stress from free radicals, and therefore help reduce inflammation.

Conclusion: Due to (the reasons above), pizza becomes more nutritious when one adds pineapple (should be a 'bookend' to the topic sentence)

5) Intro/Conclusion Assignment: Make sure that your thesis statement is the last line of your introduction, and that the first sentence of your conclusion is a restatement of the thesis idea, but not a direct copy/paste. The assignment sheet on Weebly shows exactly what sentences should be included. Submit with the signed parent checklist.

Works Cited Page: Contains all sources in alphabetical order by author's last name, MLA format with hanging indents. Specific directions will be reviewed in class. Due the same day as the Intro/Conclusion.

Important Note for Parents: The assignments should be as "finished" as possible when they are first submitted. **Paragraphs that contain multiple typos, spelling mistakes, incomplete sentences, and extreme run-on sentences will not be accepted.** If your student submits unedited work, it will be returned without a grade, and they can resubmit for a late grade on the next PEP day. This is not about a few small mistakes but refers to a paper that has not been edited before submission. This policy should not cause anxiety for anyone—just a caution to take the drafts seriously! It is difficult for the tutor to give appropriate feedback on the actual writing if the paper has not been edited properly. Feedback on late work will be given if possible but is not guaranteed if time does not allow it.

6) Final Draft (essay grade): Revise based on tutor comments, peer review, and a final parent edit. Submit to Turnitin.com, and bring an essay folder to class with all graded parts of the writing process, the printed final draft, and the signed parent final draft checklist.