

1) Persuasive Thesis Assignment

Name: _____

Essay Topic: _____

Arguments for	Arguments against

State Your Opinion/Viewpoint
Look back at everything you brainstormed and come up with one simple opinion that is meaningful to you. *Remember, for persuasive writing to be effective, you must personally believe in what you are writing. You must have an interest in or an excitement for your argument.*

Determine Your Controlling Ideas (prongs)
Look at your brainstorming list again and pick the top 3 general areas that best support your opinion. (or brainstorm new ones) List them in the boxes below. These ideas must be broad enough to write an entire paragraph about each of them. This means you need at least 2 different assertions and points of evidence (quotes, facts, examples, etc.) to support each.

Rank Your Controlling Ideas
In each blank above, number your ideas from weakest (1) to strongest (3).

Write a Draft Thesis Statement

Write one sentence that clearly states your main topic, viewpoint, and three best arguments or controlling ideas.

- Only 1 complete sentence.
- Shows the purpose is to persuade.
- Shows an obvious, arguable viewpoint on the topic.
- Topic is narrow enough to have a clear focus, yet broad enough to write 3 body paragraphs.
- Includes 3 main arguments (prongs).
- Uses clear, specific word choice (strong verbs, specific nouns, and expressive language).
- No universals, superlatives, or hyperbole.
- Does not contain “be” verbs.
- Third-person voice (no 1st or 2nd person pronouns).
- Does not contain contractions.
- Uses proper grammar and punctuation.

Copy Your Approved Thesis Statement

Copy the edited and approved version of your thesis statement below.

Begin Your Research Notes

While you may include personal experiences and anecdotes as persuasive evidence, these generally lead to weak arguments and should be used sparingly. You need to support your opinion with evidence from sources with authority.

*exception to the 'no first-person pronouns' rule: If you use personal experience, you can use first-person pronouns (I, me, we, us) for the evidence sentence, but not anywhere else in the paragraph.