



Persuasive writing

Duration: Eight hour-long sessions, schedule to be determined
Location: Tutor's Zoom link & Google docs

Course Description: The persuasive writing class will introduce students to the conventions of essay writing: how to craft a sophisticated thesis statement, introduction paragraph, body paragraph, and conclusion paragraph. We'll also examine strong sample essays written by students and learn from them. This course will teach students how to defend their stance with evidence, and how to prove their points to their readers using effective written language.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students will:

- Work with various texts and writing assignments that advance and complicate their argumentative skills and their ability to give peer-review feedback
 - Establish what makes reliable sources
 - Learn about the process of invention, writing, and revision in a positive environment
 - Acquire knowledge of correct grammar, punctuation, style, and syntax
 - Learn to work meaningfully in a small group setting
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Calendar: This calendar, like life, is subject to change, and may be modified by individual tutors to fit the needs of the particular class

Week 1: What is Persuasion?

- Students will start class with a punctuation lesson.
- Students will learn about rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos) to earn audience approval and agreement.
- Students will learn about the necessity of using concrete language in their persuasive essays.
- Students will defend a stance using the skills they've acquired during the lesson.

Week 2: Thesis statements

- Students will start class with a punctuation lesson.
- Students will learn what makes a high-level, "3-story" thesis statement.
- Students will architecture a 3-story thesis statement, building it in complexity over the course of the session.

Week 3: Introduction paragraphs

- Students will start class with a punctuation lesson.
- Students will examine the ingredients of a successful introduction paragraph.



- Students will discuss introduction strategies to avoid.
- Students will compose or revise their introduction paragraphs from their homework assignments based on their new knowledge.

Week 4: Body paragraphs

- Students will learn the ingredients of a successful “P.I.E.” body paragraph.
- Students will consider key questions to help them generate ideas in their body paragraph.
- Students will read a sample essay to see what works, while practicing the skill of giving real-time feedback.

Week 5: Conclusion paragraphs

- Students will learn the strategies for writing a successful conclusion paragraph.
- Students will discuss conclusion strategies to avoid.
- Students will read a sample essay to see what works, while practicing the skill of giving real-time feedback.
- Students will revise and deepen the sample essay’s conclusion paragraph based on their new knowledge.

Week 6: “Template” language

- Students will start class with a grammar lesson.
- Students will learn about “template” language, or sophisticated moves writers use in order to organize their ideas, support evidence, oppose evidence, and conclude their argument.
- Students will incorporate such argumentative language into an in-class writing exercise.

Week 7: Peer review

- Students will start class with a style lesson.
- Students will learn about what makes a successful topic sentence.
- Students will practice using new template language to defend their argumentative stance.
- Students will peer-review a student paragraph, acting as the instructor to call attention to the strengths and weaknesses of the writing.

Week 8: Debate

- Students will engage in a robust debate on a selected topic of interest.
- Students will learn about the rules that orchestrate a respectful, organized debate.
- Students will conduct the debate, featuring their prepared arguments followed by rebuttal arguments.
- Students will reflect on the debate and evaluate what they learned.