

Persuasive Essay

Attention-grabbing opener

Opinion statement

Reason #1

Evidence (anecdote)

Reason #2

Evidence (expert opinion)

Earthlings, Unite!

What happened on April 22, 1970, to bring people all over the world together? That date marked the first celebration of Earth Day. Every year since then, people in record-breaking numbers have used April 22 to show their common concern for our environment. Our school needs to join the celebration by organizing a full schedule of Earth Day activities.

An Earth Day celebration would be an excellent way for students to learn about environmental issues. Not all students are motivated by what they learn in class. However, when students have the opportunity to apply their classroom skills, they often become more interested in learning. For example, a friend of mine hated her English class until she spent a day working for a local newspaper. The experience helped her understand why the skills she learns in class are important. An Earth Day celebration could help students apply their classroom knowledge and motivate them to learn more.

A second reason for our school to join in this celebration is that Earth Day activities could unite students, parents, teachers, and other members of the community. As Ms. Ryan, a teacher at Hebert Middle School, said, "our society is very divided, but we all breathe the same air—air that is getting dirtier every day. The environment is an issue that can bring us together." For our Earth Day celebration, students and adults could work in teams to clean up trash, plant young trees, or learn

Persuasive Essay *continued*

Reason #3

Evidence (fact)

Restatement of opinion

Call to action

more about recycling. Everyone would benefit from working together.

Finally, the most important reason for celebrating Earth Day is that the holiday draws attention to urgent environmental problems on our planet. Toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, and other pollutants are choking our air and water. Many of our fellow creatures on earth, including some of the rarest animals and plants, may die out completely because they are losing their natural habitats. Celebration of Earth Day would help to make us all more aware of environmental problems and how we might solve them.

So, earthlings, unite! We can help to make a difference by celebrating Earth Day at our school. If you agree, write a letter to the school board or the administration today. All of us take life from the earth. Now let's give something back in return.

Persuasive Essay

Definition

A **persuasive essay** is meant to change its readers' minds or to convince them to take action. It is usually focused on an issue that is very important to its writer—an issue that the writer has a strong opinion about.

Many persuasive essays use the structure illustrated in the framework below. Print this framework and use it as a guide when you write your own persuasive essay.

Framework

Directions and Explanations

Introduction

- Attention-grabbing opening
- Opinion statement

Get your readers' attention Your first sentence should hook your readers. Try opening with an interesting question, an anecdote, a quotation, or a mysterious statement.

State your opinion clearly Include a clear statement of your position on the issue.



Body

- Reason #1 (evidence supporting reason #1)
- Reason #2 (evidence supporting reason #2) and so on

Support your opinion with reasons Arrange your reasons in order of importance (starting with the most important reason) or in climactic order (ending with the most important reason).

Provide evidence Back up your reasons with evidence, such as anecdotes, expert opinions, and facts. Make sure to explain how the evidence supports your reasons.



Conclusion

- Restatement of opinion
- Summary of reasons and/or call to action

Leave your audience convinced Close your essay by stating your opinion in a new way. You may want to provide a summary of your reasons and/or urge your readers to take some kind of action.