

Persuasive Writing

A Formula For Success

Purpose:

To teach students a formula so they will write a persuasive essay that: clarifies a point of view, influences people, and convincingly sets forth an opinion.

Standards:

Grade 5: Writing Applications 2.4

Grade 6: Writing Applications 2.5

Grade 7: Writing Applications 2.4

Grade 8: Writing Applications 2.4

Materials:

Please download and print out the worksheets that accompany this unit.

Procedure:

1. Teach students the elements of a persuasive essay (the formula). Provide each student with a copy of the "Study Guide Abbreviations" and post it on the wall for reference.
2. Walk students through the sample Persuasive Essay. Highlight the elements of the formula as they appear in the essay.
3. Brainstorm for a topic using any type of cluster diagram.
4. *Model* – Model how you would select a topic from the brainstorming cluster diagram. Then, using the "Brainstorming for the Persuasive Essay" t-chart, brainstorm the pros (or pluses) and cons (or minuses) for the topic you've selected. Show students that if there is not enough controversy or information under that topic a new topic will need to be selected.
5. *Guided Practice* – Give students an opportunity to select a topic and fill in their t-chart brainstorming worksheet. Have students Pair-Share when they are finished.
6. *Model* - Using the "What's Your Thesis Statement?" worksheet, model how to create a topic sentence and reasons using one of the topics acquired during the brainstorming. Show how to refer back to the t-chart for information. Be sure to *Think Aloud* in order to demonstrate your thought processes.

7. *Guided Practice* - Using the "What's Your Thesis Statement?" worksheet, have students fill in a thesis statement and three reasons that support that statement. Be sure to check the three reasons that support their position before allowing the students to continue. Many students have difficulty with this step and often repeat themselves.
8. *Model* - Using the "Main Idea and Supporting Details" graphic organizer, show how students can begin to fill in this outline by transferring information from the "What's Your Thesis Statement?" worksheet. Then, model for students how to fill in the remainder of the graphic organizer (or outline).
9. *Guided Practice* - Allow students to complete the "Main Idea and Supporting Details" graphic organizer based on their topic.
10. *Model* - Show students how to use the "Main Idea and Supporting Details" graphic organizer to write the persuasive essay. Show how each column transfers into a paragraph. Create a sample essay for the students to use as a guide.
11. *Independent Practice* - Have students complete the essay independently.