

Persuasive Essay Structure (7th & 8th Grade ELA)

Thoughts to keep in mind:

The Prompt - Tells you your writing task. You **MUST** decode the prompt for both your audience and purpose for writing to stay on topic.

Audience - The prompt will refer to a specific audience like "your principal" or "your peers at school." Your choice of language (diction) will depend upon your audience.

Purpose - The prompt will explain or refer to the topic you are to persuade others about. **YOU MUST STAY ON TOPIC** to score well.

Counter Argument - You **MUST** include the opposing viewpoint somewhere in your essay.

Outline/Pre-Write - **ORGANIZE** your writing structure **FIRST!**

Paragraph #1 - Opening Statements

Attention Grabber - This draws your audience in as either an interrogative or exclamatory sentence (a question "?" or strong statement "!")

Thesis - Your clear viewpoint ("I disagree with", "I support", "I am for") on the writing task; includes a rephrase of the prompt.

Counter Argument - A "However," statement briefly showing the opposite viewpoint.

General Overview of the Essay - Transition statement into the main body paragraph; briefly explains the general logic behind your position.

Paragraph #2 - The Main Body (Evidence and Logic) of Your Essay

Topic Sentence - Your viewpoint, which includes your logic about your position.

Concrete Detail - A "For example," statement stating your first fact or example supporting your viewpoint.

Commentary - A "This means that", "This proves that", or "In my opinion," statement, which shows your logical opinion of how that fact supports your argument.

Concrete Detail - A "For example," statement, stating your second fact or example supporting your viewpoint.

Commentary - A "This means that", "This proves that", or "In my opinion," statement, which shows your logical opinion of how that fact supports your argument.

Transition Counter Argument - This statement should strongly "bash" the opposing viewpoint with your strong commentary leading in to your conclusion.

Paragraph #3 - Strong Concluding Statements (The Wrap Up)

Rephrase of Thesis - A stronger, more emotional rephrasing of your thesis.

Details Summary - A summary of your evidence that you have shown.

Concluding Logic/Call to Action - Your strong, logical opinion asking for the audience to take action on your issue.