

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.