

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Fedigan  
Eng 11

### PSSA Released Persuasive Writing Prompts

#### Directions:

##### For each prompt...

1. **Create a thesis statement** that sums up the main idea of the entire essay.
2. **Create topic sentences for each body paragraph issue.** You may develop the body several ways:
  - a. **Reasons for the issue(paragraph 1) followed by reasons against the issue(paragraph 2)**—conclusion would state your side & offer a persuasive ending why the reader should lean one way as compared to the other
  - b. **2-3 reasons why you believe in the issue/ topic (each issue is a new paragraph).** The conclusion will offer your final recommendation for your belief and why others should believe as you do.

##### NOTE:

3. The main difference between an informational and persuasive essay is that you offer a "call to action" or explain why one side is better than the other in a persuasive. In other words, you are taking a stand on one side of an issue.
4. In an informational piece of writing, you are simply informing as to how the topic will affect anything related to the topic. You are not offering a side. You do not take a stand.

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**The below prompts are all persuasive! Keep focused!**

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#### Prompt #1:

"It doesn't matter if you win or lose—only if you win." Is winning important?

Persuade your reader to agree with your opinion.

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#### Prompt #2:

Your school district is considering a policy that would limit the amount of homework teachers may assign. Do you agree with this policy? How would it affect your success in high school?

Write an essay persuading the principal to accept your ideas about limiting homework.

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#### Prompt #3

With advancements in technology, some students have chosen to go to high school via the Internet. Decide if public education in school buildings and classrooms, or Internet education anywhere is best for students.

Persuade your reader of your choice.