

ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHING PERSUASIVE WRITING

IDEAS TO HELP STUDENTS FORMULATE THEIR OPINIONS

Students need to understand that when writing a persuasive essay, it is important to be able to clearly express an opinion. Feeling apathy toward the subject will not allow them to write an effective essay. To practice the technique of taking sides, lead students through the following activities that require them to formulate opinions.

Activity 1: AUDITORY AND KINESTHETIC

Place a large sign that reads “yes” in one corner of the room and a sign that reads “no” in another corner. Instruct your students to stand up, and explain that they must move to one of these corners after you ask each of the questions below. Tell them to notice that there is not a sign that reads “maybe.”

Here is a list of questions to ask:

- Should the driving age be reduced to fourteen?
- Should Americans stop driving SUVs because these vehicles use too much fuel?
- Should people who get lung cancer sue cigarette companies?
- Should people who gain too much weight sue fast food companies?
- Should parents limit the amount of time their children watch television?
- Do cats make better pets than dogs?
- Are pens better to write with than pencils?
- Are motorcycles better than cars?
- Are two-story houses better than one-story houses?
- Do women make better teachers than men?

Students are bound to become noisy during this activity, and they will want to express their opinions. Be sure they understand, however, that the emphasis should be on formulating an opinion rather than on supporting it with reasons.

Name _____ Date _____

Persuasive **PROMPT 1.1**

An advertisement in the local newspaper asks readers to write an essay about their favorite restaurant and why they like to eat there. The person who writes the winning essay will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate for that restaurant. Think about your choice for the best place in town to eat, and write your essay to persuade the judges of the contest that your choice is a good one.

Dear Judges,

I am writing to tell you about my favorite restaurant, so prepare to want to meet me at _____ after reading this for your next meal. _____

My favorite thing about _____ is _____
I like it because _____

Another great thing about this restaurant is _____

I think people really enjoy it because _____

Let's not forget the _____
This makes dining at _____
an unforgettable experience because _____

In closing, _____ is the best place in town because _____

This place truly deserves the title of "Best Place to Eat in _____."

Sincerely,
