**Persuasive (Argumentative) Essay**

The purpose of a persuasive essay is to convince the target audience that your viewpoint on the selected issue is the correct one, and that your reader should agree with you, based on the evidence you provide. Three reasons for your opinion, plus support, are required. ALWAYS include any opposing viewpoint(s) in your argument. All essays must written using proper MLA format, including a Works Cited page giving credit to the authors and publications you are citing in your essay. Proper grammar, spelling, usage, and punctuation are part of the grade, as well.

Possible Topics:

1. Should students be allowed to have cell phones in elementary and high schools?   
2. Should students have to wear uniforms?   
3. Should college athletes be paid for playing?   
4. Should state colleges be free to attend for in-state residents?   
5. Should all American citizens have to complete a year of community service?   
6. Should students be required to take a foreign language course?   
7. Should marijuana be legal for medicinal purposes?   
8. Should the voting age be lowered to thirteen?   
9. Should the driving age be raised to twenty-one?   
10. Should students be paid for having good grades?   
11. Should illegal immigrants be allowed to get drivers licenses?   
12. Should students’ textbooks be replaced by notebook computers?   
13. Should students have to pass a basic skills test to graduate high school?  
14. Should schools raise money by selling candy and sugary soft drinks to students?   
15. Should schools serve french-fries and fried potato products to students at lunch?   
16. Should students’ grades in gym affect their grade point averages?   
17. Should girls be allowed to play on boy’s sports teams?   
18. Should teens be able to buy violent video games?   
19. Should boys and girls be in separate classes?   
20. Should our country have a universal health care program?   
21. Should immigration laws be reformed?  
22. Should the federal government recognize civil unions (i.e. gay marriages)?   
23. Should people who download music and movies illegally be punished?   
24. Should school athletes have to be on the honor roll to play in games?   
25. Should music with curse words be allowed at school dances?  
26. Should students be able to listen to MP3 players on headphones during class?   
27. Should schools offer fast food options like McDonalds or Taco Bell?   
28. Should cities offer free public Wi-Fi?   
29. Should the government place a tax on junk food and fatty snacks?  
30. Should people travelling in airplanes have to undergo intensive security screenings?  
31. Should teachers have to pass a basic skills test every ten years to renew their certification?   
32. Should people be allowed to keep exotic animals like chimpanzees or tigers?   
33. Should people be allowed to keep pit-bull dogs?

34. Should there be an ordinance citing people who fail to recycle?   
35. Should there be an ordinance citing people who play music too loudly?   
36. Should celebrities who break the law face stricter penalties?  
37. Should larger passengers have to pay for two plane or movie theater tickets?   
38. Should people have to get a license to become parents?   
39. Should there be tougher federal restrictions for content on the Internet?   
40. Should people be allowed to curse on daytime television?   
41. Should students be able to get free condoms at school?   
42. Should students who commit cyberbullying be suspended from school?

43. Should corporations be allowed to advertise in schools?   
44. Should students be allowed to eat during class?   
45. Should more be done to protect and preserve endangered animals?  
46. Is it appropriate for students and teachers to be friends on Facebook?   
47. Should students have open campus lunch periods?   
48. Should the death penalty be used to punish violent criminals?  
49. Should students learn about world religions in public schools?  
50. Should schools start later in the morning?   
51. Should the USA end overseas military operations?  
52. Should politicians be allowed to accept campaign contributions from corporate lobbyists?  
53. Should people with terminal illnesses have the right to doctor-assisted suicides?   
54. Should school athletes have to take drug tests?  
55. Should professional athletes have to take drug tests?  
56. Should high school students have to complete community service hours to graduate?  
57. Should teens over 13 years be allowed into R-rated movies?  
58. Should state tests be given in other languages for ESL students?   
59. Should scientists be allowed to test products intended for human use on animals?   
60. Should unhealthy fast food products be sold with a warning label?   
61. Should there be a tariff or tax on products manufactured outside of the country?  
62. Should students or teachers receive money for scoring well on standardized tests?   
63. Should everyone under the age of 17 have a 9:00 PM curfew?  
64. Should schools with low scores on standardized tests be closed?   
65. Should minors be allowed to drink alcoholic beverages in their homes with their parents’

consent?  
66. Should students be allowed to drop out before they turn 18 years old?   
67. Should alcohol manufacturers be allowed to advertise on television?   
68. Should students as young as fourteen be allowed to hold jobs?   
69. Should people who are caught driving drunk lose their licenses for a year?  
70. Should students who fail their classes be retained and have to repeat the grade?  
71. Should large businesses and corporations be required to employee a number of minorities

proportionate to the population?  
72. Should children in temporary living situations with 3.0 GPAs earn free college tuition?   
73. Should gambling and sports betting be illegal or should the government regulate it?   
74. Should children who commit violent crimes be tried as adults?   
75. Should the government be allowed to detain suspected terrorists without trial?  
76. Should the government censor Internet content deemed inappropriate?   
77. Should teachers have to wear uniforms or have a dress code?   
78. Should teachers be allowed to have cell phones in the classroom?  
79. Should the state execute dogs that have bitten someone?

80. Should cyberschool students be allowed to attend the senior prom?