

Name _____

Hour _____

Persuasive Writing

The purpose of persuasive writing or speaking is to convince someone to think or act in a particular way. You use persuasion every day when you attempt to convince your parents to let you go somewhere, when you try to convince your teacher to show a movie, or when you try to make your boss believe your story for being late. You've probably found out the hard way that persuading these people to think as you do is not an easy task. You must convince them to change their attitudes—sometimes this is very difficult.

Before you can get someone to believe you, you must prove to him or her that you feel strongly about what you are saying. This is why it is so important to select a topic that you have personal feelings about for each of your persuasive writings. For instance, there is bound to be something that really "bugs" you, something that always upsets you. Maybe it's the funny noise your brother makes when he is drinking his soda, or the way one of your teachers always calls on certain people, or maybe the fact that you can never find something when you are in a hurry.

What's your pet peeve?

How could this pet peeve be avoided/solved?

For example:

What's your pet peeve?

My biggest pet peeve is when I ask a question and someone responds, "Yea." Half the time, I don't know what they are saying; I ask myself, "Did you just say 'yes' or 'nah.'"

How could this pet peeve be avoided/solved?

My solution to those that say "Yea" would be to wire the offender's jaw shut for a month so they remember every time they want to speak that "Yea" makes them uncommunicative.

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Pet Peeve Persuasive Essay

In a three-paragraph essay, introduce your pet peeve and a solution to it. Your solution can be serious or humorous. The point is to get into the mode of writing persuasively. You can organize your essay anyway that makes logical sense. If you are having trouble, one of the easiest ways to organize your essay is as follows:

Paragraph 1) Introduce your pet peeve with description as to why it annoys you. Perhaps provide an example or anecdote. Why is your pet peeve a nuisance?

Paragraph 2) Provide a solution with evidence as to why this would counter the pet peeve. Persuade other people to adopt this solution! How/Why is this solution affective?

Paragraph 3) Reiterate why your pet peeve needs to be eliminated. Write a memorable conclusion with a strong end statement, advocating your solution.

Furthermore, we have been talking about incorporating figurative language into your writing. Within your essay, include at least two different kinds of schemes or tropes. Underline or highlight the figurative language that you employ. In pen, write on your essay what kind of trope or scheme you used.

Staple your *Tropes and Schemes* worksheet from 4/16 behind your essay.