



## Research, Write, Communicate | Persuasive Essay Peer Review



### Key Concept

Congratulations! You have completed the first draft of your persuasive essay. Have you given your audience a convincing argument for your position? The best persuasive writers revise their first drafts to create the most interesting and convincing essay they can write.

Does your introduction make your essay so compelling that it must be read? Do your body paragraphs include all the main points, supporting points, and transitions needed to make a convincing argument? Is your conclusion memorable and thought-provoking?

*Revising* is about looking at your writing from different points of view. The most effective way to get another point of view is to ask someone else to read your essay. You can ask a peer to read your essay with fresh eyes and offer suggestions to improve your exposition.

Word processing applications usually provide research and collaboration tools. You can use research tools, such as a thesaurus, to improve your word choices. You can use collaboration tools to track changes during revisions and make suggestions during peer reviews.

### Look Ahead

**Task:** Use a peer review to revise your persuasive essay.

**Goal:** Write an interesting, informative, and persuasive essay.

You may want to review an example of a *persuasive essay revision* before you begin.

**See the example:**  
[Persuasive Essay](#)



# Vocabulary

## Words to Remember

This page gives basic definitions for some important terms that can help you learn about using peer review to revise an essay. You can get a more complete definition of each term from [Fact Monster](#)\*.

## New Words

**Antonym:** A word that means the opposite of a particular word.

**Revise:** Carefully review and improve the content of a creative work.

**Synonym:** A word that has the same meaning as another word.

**Thesaurus:** A reference that contains lists of synonyms and antonyms.

## Review Words

**Analyze:** Study carefully to identify and understand essential parts.

**Body:** The main content of a written work, not including parts with specific purposes.

**Cite:** Refer to a source of information, usually in a formal way.

**Conclusion:** A judgment, decision, or solution reached for specific reasons.

**Data:** Information collected by observation or measurement.

**Draft:** An unfinished version of a creative work.

**Evidence:** Objective information supporting an argument, such as facts, data, and statistics.

**Fact:** Information widely believed to be true and supported by objective data.

**Information:** Anything that can be used to create knowledge. For example, words, numbers, images, audio, and video can all contain *information*.

**Introduction:** The beginning of a work that leads into the main body of the work.

**Issue:** An idea or action on which people with different points of view have strong opinions.

**Objective:** Able to put aside personal feelings and opinions.

**Paragraph:** A group of sentences focusing on one idea or concept, which begins on a new line and ends with a return to a new line.



**Peer:** A person who is similar to another, as in age, grade, or career.

**Persuasive:** A type of writing intended to influence the thoughts or actions of an audience.

**Point of View:** The way a person tends to think about people, places, and events based on individual experiences.

**Source:** Anything or anyone providing information about a topic.

**Statistics:** Facts and data that can be represented by numbers; also the study of numerical facts and data.

**Summarize:** Explain the main points and important details of an author's ideas.

**Synthesize:** Produce something new by combining existing information to form a new idea or concept.

**Transition:** Movement from one idea or concept to another in a creative work.



# Exploration

## Learning from the Web

Peer review is one of the most effective strategies for revising an essay. The most persuasive writers use suggestions from their peers to improve their essays. They also provide helpful suggestions to help their peers revise their essays. Explore some Web sites about reviewing and revising, and learn how to make your essay as interesting and informative as it can be.

While you explore the following Web sites, think about the guiding questions. You may want to take notes to help you answer the questions. If you think of other questions about using peer review to revise an essay, keep those in mind too.

## Guiding Questions

- How can you put yourself in the minds of your readers?
- How can you identify the strengths and weaknesses of your persuasive writing?
- What can you do to improve your writing?

## Web Sites

### Revising an Essay

- [Revising Your First Draft](#)\* from [Fact Monster](#)\*
- [Writing Workshop: Persuasive Writing: Revise](#)\* from [Scholastic](#)\*

### Peer Review

- [Write It: Giving Meaningful Feedback](#)\* from [Scholastic](#)\*
- [Write It: Handling Feedback](#)\* from [Scholastic](#)\*

### Word Processing Tools

- [Track Changes Made to Word Documents](#)\* from [About](#)\*
- [Inserting Comments](#)\* from [About](#)\*
- [Changing the Markup View](#)\* from [About](#)\*
- [Saving Document Versions](#)\* from [About](#)\*



## Information

### What to Know

This page summarizes some of the information from the Web sites you explored. This information helps you learn what you need to know for this activity about using peer review to revise an essay. You may want to take notes to help you remember the most important points. You can return to the Web sites for more exploration if you want to learn more.

### Using Peer Review to Revise an Essay

The purpose of revision is to make your essay as good as it can be. When you revise an essay, you need to be as objective as possible. *Revising* is about looking at your writing from different points of view. You can use word processing tools to help you revise your essay.

### Revising an Essay

When you revise, you want to focus on content. Do not worry about grammar, spelling, or punctuation yet. That comes later.

Complete the following tasks when you revise your essay:

- Make sure you have included all information needed to make your argument
- Rewrite or rearrange paragraphs that are too long or too short
- Remove main points if they are not needed to make your argument
- Rewrite or rearrange sentences if paragraph structure is not logical
- Remove supporting points if they are not needed to explain a main point
- Add transitions if the flow from one paragraph to another is not smooth
- Take out unnecessary words and replace generic words with more specific terms
- Add additional facts, data, or quotes if needed to explain or illustrate a point
- Make sure you have cited all of your sources

### Peer Review

One of the most effective ways to get another point of view is to ask someone else to read your essay. You can ask a peer to review your essay with fresh eyes. A *peer* is someone who is similar to you, such as someone who is in the same grade in school. When you review an essay, you point out the parts that are especially well-crafted as well as any parts that may need to be revised. The most effective peer reviews offer specific suggestions for improvement.

When you review an essay for a peer, you should look for the same types of problems you look for when you revise your own essay. When you ask a peer to review your essay, tell them if



you do or do not want any specific kind of feedback.

When you read a peer review or your essay, you need to put aside personal feelings and opinions. You are wasting time if you argue with the reviewer or defend your essay. Consider each suggestion carefully from the reviewer's point of view. Then decided whether, and how, you want to use the suggestion to revise your essay. If you are not sure if you should use a suggestion, you may want to ask another person for an opinion.



# Task

## What to Do

learned about using peer review to revise an essay. While you work through the task, think about whether you are achieving the goal. You may want to review an example of a *persuasive essay revision* before you begin.

**Task:** Use a peer review to revise your persuasive essay.

**Goal:** Write an interesting, informative, and persuasive essay.

**See the example:** [Persuasive Essay](#)

1. Exchange essays with a peer and review each other's essays. Your teacher may assign you a partner or may ask you to find a partner.
2. Review your peer's essay. Make sure you clearly understand any specific kind of feedback that your peer does or does not want. In your review, point out the parts that are especially well-crafted and the parts that may need to be revised. Try to offer specific suggestions for improvement.
3. Read the peer review of your essay. Remember to put aside personal feelings and opinions. Consider each suggestion carefully from the peer's point of view.
4. Open the document containing your persuasive essay.
5. Save the document with a new filename. The new filename should indicate that the document contains your revised persuasive essay.
6. Use the peer review to revise your persuasive essay. Try to put yourself in the minds of your audience and read your essay from their point of view. Try to make your essay as interesting and informative as possible.
7. Remember to save your document often while you work.
8. Use the thesaurus feature in your word processing application to help select specific terms.
9. Share your revised essay

### Help Guide

Use the Intel® Education Help Guide to learn technology skills.

#### Word Processing

[Review documents](#)

[Use Thesaurus](#)

[Save document](#)

[Search the Help Guide](#)



## Task Example

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Is the United Nations Still Important?**

The United Nations is unusual in that it consists of 191 nations with 191 differing histories and 191 perspectives that are all bound by the terms of the same Charter. How can this work? According to John Negroponte the answer is, "Promoting policies that support the freedom and well-being of people in their own nation-state, not by pursuing the illusions of world government." The United Nation's mission statement states that its purpose is to keep peace throughout the world, to develop friendly relations between nations and to work together to help people live better lives by eliminating poverty, disease and to stop environmental destruction. In spite of these lofty goals many people feel that the United Nations has not accomplished what they set out to do. They point to the failure of the UN in dealing with the genocide in Rwanda, failure to deliver food to starving people in Somalia, and the recent Oil-for-Food scandal. In spite of these problems I feel that the United Nations is still a vital organization that gives countries facing difficult situations a world stage to deal with their problems.

Who will stand up for the children of the world? How will their voices be heard? Thanks to the United Nations an official concluded a two-week mission to Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel. Radhika Coomaraswamy, the UN Special Representative for children and armed conflict, found the children to be plagued by fear, anxiety, anger and feeling of hopelessness. The objective of the visit was to see first hand the situation of the children and ensure greater protection for them. The UN addressed its concerns with the countries involved and helped plan a course of action. The UN has the ability to bring the problem back to all the members and challenge them to make a difference. In doing this, the children will have the international community involved, and the problems will be addressed. If not for the United Nations the world may not know of the plight of the children in these war-torn areas.

Machu Picchu, Peru might not seem important to us, but in 1983 it was added to the World Heritage list. It is an outstanding Andean archaeological center. The UN met with government officials to monitor implementation of a master plan for the area. They will try to protect the natural environment of flora and fauna and try to halt mudslides and fires which have had a disastrous effect on Machu Picchu. The world belongs to all of us. It is the responsibility of all of us to make sure that we leave it as we found it, if not better. The UN is able to bring these issues and many others to the attention of the world. It is likely we wouldn't know about the problems facing the environment in different parts of the world without the UN highlighting them and bringing them back to the member nations. It is very easy to think locally, but the UN forces us to think and act globally.





## Technology Literacy

Darfur, Sudan may be half way around the world for many of us, so it would be unlikely that we would know what is happening there. The National Security and Intelligence Service of the UN again brought the conflict to the attention of the world. The commission found that more than 70,000 people died as a result of violence and malnutrition. They found that more than 1.6 million people have been displaced because of the violence. The UN is responsible for bringing it to the attention of the world and monitoring the policies set down by the members of the United Nations. Without the help of the UN this might have been an atrocity half way around the world that went unnoticed.

The United Nations has been successful because even the smallest and least powerful nations are given a voice. Despite the problems that arise when nations attempt to reach decisions on world affairs the UN is still a significant force in world affairs. In a report published in the Oxford University Press(2006) it is believed that International activism, mostly spearheaded by the UN has been the main cause of the Cold War decline in armed conflict. The report singles out these particular achievements: A fourfold increase in the number of UN Peacekeeping operations, an 80% drop in genocide, and an elevenfold increase in the number of economic sanctions against problem nations. These statistics are impressive. Does the United Nations have the ability to adapt and take the necessary action to deal with threats that are undermining peace and to remain at the heart of international cooperation? Only time will tell, but I think the UN is the best prepared to handle most international crisis. The UN is not perfect, but for now, it is an important stage for all peoples who need to be heard by the International community.