The **15** Steps to Writing a Successful Persuasive Paragraph



Preparing to Write…Plan thoroughly for success!

* Step #1: Read the assignment expectations and prompt question **carefully** (make sure that you understand what you are being asked to do. Ask questions if you are unsure).
* Step #2: **Brainstorm** supporting arguments and specific examples (quotations) for all possible sides of the prompt question (use a t-chart or a mind map to organize your ideas visually).
* Step #3: **Choose a side** of the question to defend (do not choose an in-between position). This position will compose your thesis statement. **THE TOPIC QUESTION + YOUR POSITION = YOUR THESIS STATEMENT.**
* Step #4: Write your **thesis statement** in **ONE** complete sentence.
* Step #5: Write a **brief outline** of your points/proofs/analyses for the paragraph before writing.

Writing the Paragraph…Use proper paragraph structure, persuasive techniques, and transition words to enhance the overall flow of your writing!

* Step #6: Write your introductory **topic ‘hook’** (generally introduce your topic in a relevant, engaging, and thoughtful way). Your goal is to grab your reader’s attention and hold onto it.
* Step #7: Insert your **thesis statement** (connect everything back to this thesis in your paragraph).
* Step #8: Write **point #1** (your first supporting argument).
* Step #9: Write **proof #1** (your first piece of textual evidence [quotation] to support your first argument) – DO NOT FORGET TO PROPERLY CITE **ALL** QUOTATIONS USING MLA REFERENCING FORMAT! YOU WILL ALSO NEED A WORKS CITED PAGE.
* Step #10: Write **analysis #1** (clearly and insightfully analyze how your first point and proof prove your thesis statement).
* Step #11: Write **point #2** (your second supporting argument).
* Step #12: Write **proof # 2** (your second piece of textual evidence [quotation] to support your second argument) – DO NOT FORGET TO PROPERLY CITE **ALL** QUOTATIONS USING MLA REFERENCING FORMAT! YOU WILL ALSO NEED A WORKS CITED PAGE.
* Step #13: Write **analysis #2** (clearly and insightfully analyze how your second point and proof prove your thesis statement).
* Step #14: Write a meaningful **concluding sentence(s)** that restates your position in different words than you initially used in your thesis statement without changing your position (if you change your thesis by the end of a persuasive piece of writing, everything will fall apart).
* Step #15: **Edit** your writing thoroughly (self-editing and peer editing are recommended) for avoidable errors and incorrect language conventions (spelling and grammar) that can distract from the overall clarity and impact of your ideas and level of persuasiveness – CONSIDER HOW ERRORS NEGATIVELY AFFECT YOUR **ETHOS**! Finally, make sure that you have only written **ONE** paragraph!