

Exercises on persuasive essay writing

Tolentino Tuition

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Grade 7 English

18 March 2026

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Persuasive essay structure

First, a question for you,

Why write a persuasive essay in the first place?

A persuasive essay *could* (but does not have to) have the following structure:

A title which is your argument in question form

1. An introduction which
 - (1) states your *thesis* (which is just your main argument)
 - (2) Optionally, includes some *competing views*
 - (3) gives the reader any context that they need to understand your arguments
 - (4) *signposts* your *sub arguments*

2. Some number of body paragraphs in which
 - (1) The first sentence is a *topic* sentence that states your sub argument and is the *next step* in explaining your main argument
 - (2) Evidence or *truths* are presented that you use to convince your reader that your argument is valid
 - (3) The last sentence is a *linking* sentence that serves as a segway to your next body paragraph or your conclusion

3. A conclusion which restates your *thesis* and the *sub-arguments* from your body paragraphs and answers one or more of the following questions:
 - (1) As the reader, why should you care about what I just wrote?
 - (2) What are some real world applications of my thesis?
 - (3) What are the further questions that my thesis raises, and how could the reader go about finding the answers?

Exercise 1

Let's construct a plan for an essay persuading someone on the following thesis, using three sub-arguments:

'Happiness is the most important purpose in life'

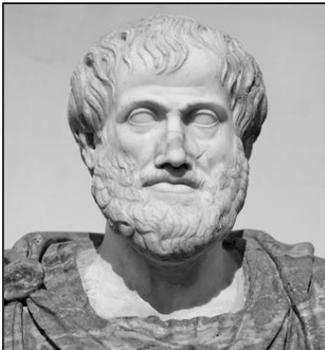


Figure 1. *Aristotle*, a Greek philosopher born in 384 BC viewed the ultimate purpose of human existence as '*eudaimonia*', which is often translated as 'happiness', but is more accurately defined as 'living well'.

Title	
What is our thesis?	
What are some views that disagree with our thesis?	
What context does our reader need to know to understand us?	
What are our three sub-arguments?	(1)
	(2)
	(3)
What evidence could we use to support our three sub-arguments?	(1)
	(2)
	(3)

Why should our reader care about our thesis?	
What are some real world applications of our thesis?	
What are some further questions that our thesis raises, and how might our reader find the answers?	

Now, let's attempt to write the essay!

(please see next page for homework)

Exercise 2

Select the thesis statement below that appeals to you most, and write a short essay persuading someone on said thesis:

(1) *People should have unlimited freedom*

(2) *People should not have unlimited freedom*



Figure 2. In his work *The Republic*, ancient Greek philosopher *Plato* criticized the excessive freedom of the people of Athens, arguing that it led to disorder within Athenian society.