

“Persuasive Writing Wizard”  
Text and *Show Me* Content

*In persuasive writing the writer’s goal is to convince the reader to believe his/ her arguments on a controversial issue, an issue that has more than one position or side.*

Step 1: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Step 2: Read the Prompt.

Step 3: Understanding the Task. Read the writing task and identify the subject, audience, purpose and voice below.

1. Subject:
2. Audience:
3. Purpose:
4. Voice

Step 4: Taking a Stand

A Pro/Con Chart encourages you to understand opposing viewpoints of an issue. By looking at both sides, you will be able to choose the best arguments for your position. In the chart below, write three or four statements for (pro) and against (con/counterarguments) the issue.

PROS	CONS

Step 5: Topic Sentences

**Select the three strongest arguments** and their opposing viewpoints by placing a check in each box. These will become your topic sentences.

**Use the worksheet that follows to respond to Steps 6-7**

Step 6: Thesis/Position Statement

After reviewing your arguments and supporting viewpoints, choose your position either for or against the issue and develop your position/thesis statement.

Step 7: Supporting Details

List supporting details, facts, examples, statistics or quotes to support each argument. Note: Please check with your teachers as to the required format for all citations. (If you include a counterargument, revise the opposing viewpoints to create a topic sentence that combines the two ideas into one argument.)

Argument/ Topic Sentence 1:

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Supporting details:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Argument/ Topic Sentence 2:

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Supporting details:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Argument/ Topic Sentence 3:

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Supporting details:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Argument/ Topic Sentence 4:

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Supporting details:

1.

2.

3.

4.

### **Draft your Response: Now you try it!**

#### **Writing the Introduction**

1. Begin with a “hook” or “attention grabber” to catch your reader’s attention. Some examples include: a quotation, a strong or startling statement, a statistic or a fact.
2. Provide enough background information to help your reader to understand the problem.
3. Finish with a strong thesis/position statement that clearly presents your point of view.

“Hook/attention-getter”

Background information

Thesis/position statement

#### **Writing the body paragraphs of your essay**

1. The body of your essay should contain at least three paragraphs.
2. Begin each paragraph with a clearly stated argument/reason that supports your thesis/position statement.
3. Consider and include opposing viewpoints and your counter-arguments.
4. Each paragraph should have sufficient supporting details/evidence to persuade your reader that your argument is stronger than the opposition.

Paragraph #1

State the first argument/ reason to support your position (write in a complete sentence.) If possible include the opposing viewpoint  
Discuss your supporting details/ evidence in defense of your viewpoint.

Paragraph #2

State the second argument/ reason to support your position ( write in a complete sentence) If possible, include the opposing viewpoint  
Discuss your supporting details/evidence in defense of your viewpoint

Paragraph #3

State the first argument/ reason to support your position (write in a complete sentence) If possible, include the opposing viewpoint.  
Discuss your supporting details/ evidence in defense of your viewpoint

Writing a conclusion

1. Emphasize why the issue is so important
2. Suggest one or more actions that you want your reader to take, based on the strength of your arguments.
3. Point out what may/would happen or NOT happen) if your reader **acts on** your suggestion. You may also want to point out what may/ would happen (or not happen) if your reader **does not act on** your suggestion.

Emphasize the importance of the issue:

Suggest an action:

Point out what would happen:

**Persuasive Wizard “SHOW ME” Text**

**Slide #1**

- Step 1 Elizabeth
- Step 2 Read the prompt.
- Step 3
- Subject Eating in the classroom
  - Audience Principal
  - Purpose I must convince the principal that she should give permission for students to eat in the classroom at certain times of the day.
  - Voice Authority

**Slide #2**

Step 4

Pro (for)	Con (against)
1. Eating provides energy	1. Students will become hyperactive
2. If students can eat in class, they will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves	2. Students will leave the classroom a mess
3. Students will be given a few minutes for a nutritional snack and will not eat while the teacher is teaching	3. As long as students have food with them, they will eat whenever they want, making noises and creating distractions from learning

Step 5

*The selected sentences in the boxes above will be your topic sentences.*

**Slide #3**

Step 6

Thesis

Students should not be allowed to eat in their classrooms.

Argument #1

Eating provides energy  
Students will become hyperactive

Argument #2

If students can eat in class, they will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves.

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Students will leave the classroom a mess for teachers and custodians to clean up.

Argument #3

Students will be given a few minutes for a nutrition break, not eat while the teacher is teaching.

As long as students have food with them, they will eat whenever they want, making all kinds of noises and creating distractions from learning.

**Slide #4**

**Step 7**

List supporting details, facts, examples, statistics or quotes to support each argument. Note: Please check with your teachers as to the required format for all citations.

If you include a counterargument, revise the opposing viewpoints to create a topic sentence that combines the two ideas into one argument.

Argument #1

Pro: Eating provides energy

Con: Students will become hyperactive

**Alternative Response: Topic sentence that combines the two ideas:**

Although it is true that eating in class will provide students with needed energy, it is also true that students can become quite hyperactive.

Supporting Detail

Can you imagine how kids will be after they drink a can of Pepsi and eat a package of Skittles?

Supportive Detail

Students will become so wound up, that they will most likely throw food at each other right in the classroom.

Supporting Detail

Also, once the caffeine and sugar kicks in, students will not be able to sit still long enough to listen to the teacher.

**Slide #5**

**Step 8**

List supporting details, facts, examples, statistics or quotes to support each argument. Note: Please check with your teachers as to the required format for all citations.

If you include a counterargument, revise the opposing viewpoints to create a topic sentence that combines the two ideas into one argument.

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Argument #2

Pro: If students can eat in class, they will responsible for cleaning up after themselves

Con: Students will leave the classroom a mess for teachers and custodians to clean up.

**Alternative Response: Topic sentence that combines the two ideas:**

I know that students have told you that if they are allowed to eat in class, they will clean up after themselves. Trust me, the only people who will be cleaning up the mess in the classrooms are the teachers and custodians.

Supportive Detail

Students’ desks will be sticky and food wrappers will be littered all around their desks.

Supportive Detail

When a teacher asks a student to clean up after him or herself, what do you think the student will say to the teacher? That’s right!

Supportive Detail

Everyday, tired teachers and custodians will have to spend hours after school trying to clean up the mess students will leave behind.

**Slide #6**

Step 9

List supporting details, facts, examples, statistics or quotes to support each argument. Note: Please check with your teachers as to the required format for all citations.

If you include a counterargument, revise the opposing viewpoints to create a topic sentence that combines the two ideas into one argument.

Argument #3

Pro: Students will be given a few minutes for a nutrition break, not eat while the teacher is teaching.

Con: As long as students have food with them, they will eat whenever they want, making all kinds of noises and creating distractions from learning.

**Alternative Response: Topic sentence that combines the two ideas:**

Those who support the idea of eating in the classroom claim that only several minutes of class time will be allotted for a nutrition break. However, as long as students have food with them, I am sure that they will eat anytime they wish, making noises and creating distractions from learning.

Supportive Detail

Without even thinking, students will pop open soda cans and crackle their food wrappers so that those sounds will be the only ones anyone will hear in the classroom.

Supportive Detail

Students will burp, grunt and smack their lips as they're drinking and eating, causing major disruptions during the process of learning

Supportive Detail

Teachers will become so distracted and stressed out by all the trouble eating in the classroom will cause, that they will totally lose track of the planned instruction.

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**Student Sample**

Imagine sitting in your third period class and hearing your stomach growl so loudly that all the students can hear it above the sound of your teacher's instructions. Wouldn't it be great if you could get a few minutes to grab something out of your backpack to eat to quiet your pangs of hunger? Now imagine, everyone in your class grabbing food out of their backpacks, out of each other's hands and creating a cafeteria-type atmosphere in the place that is supposed to provide you with an education, not a food fest! Yes, it's true that students get hungry at other times than lunch, but by eating a good breakfast and grabbing a snack between periods, students shouldn't have to go hungry during the day. Most importantly, students should not be allowed to eat in their classrooms.

Although it is true that eating in class will provide students with needed energy, it is also true that students can become quite hyperactive. Consider what students will pack for a snack---carbs and caffeine. Can you imagine how kids will be after they drink a can of Pepsi and eat a package of Skittles? They will hardly be able to stay in their seats or stop talking to each other. Students may become so wound up, that they could end up throwing uneaten food at each other right in the classroom. Also, once the caffeine and sugar kicks in, students will not be able to concentrate on what the teacher is saying. Surely, this is what happens after lunch. Students find it harder to concentrate when the blood is rushing to their stomachs to digest food, instead of supplying their brains.

Another problem with eating in the classroom is the mess that students make. Now, I know that students have said that if they are allowed to eat in class, they will clean up after themselves. Trust me, the only people who will be cleaning up the mess in the classrooms are the teachers and custodians. Students' desks will be sticky and food wrappers and soda or juice cans will be littered all around their desks. When a teacher asks a student to clean up after him or herself, what do you think the student will say to the teacher? That's right! Students are not any more likely to clean



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after themselves in the classroom than they are in the cafeteria even though they are told over and over again by teachers, aides, and custodians. Just think about it, everyday, tired teachers and custodians will have to spend hours after school trying to clean up the mess students will leave behind.

Those who support the idea of eating in the classroom claim that only several minutes of class time will be allotted for a nutrition break. However, as long as students have food with them in the classroom, I am sure that they will eat anytime they wish, making noises and creating distractions from learning. Without even thinking, students will pop open soda cans and crackle their food wrappers so that those sounds will be the only ones anyone will hear in the classroom. Students will burp, grunt and smack their lips as they're drinking and eating, causing major disruptions during the process of learning. It's funny how much noise a kid can make while eating and not even be aware that he/she is making noises at all. I mean, really, who could concentrate on who won the revolutionary war while listening to major burping in the background. More horrible is how teachers will become so distracted and stressed out by all the trouble eating in the classroom will cause, that they will totally lose track of the planned instruction.

Clearly, students must get nourishment throughout the day, not just during a short 30 minute lunch period. However, I suggest that you set up a 15 minute nutrition break during the morning during which students go to several common areas to eat. Setting up specific rules/guidelines for selection of snacks and for cleaning up will give students a chance to show that they can be responsible and nourished at the same time. I know you will be surprised to see how much better students will do on their tests and class assignments, if they aren't starving, yet not eating in the classrooms. Just give it a try and watch the honor roll get longer.