

## PERSUASIVE ESSAY PROMPTS

*Persuasive writing seeks to influence the reader to take some action or bring about change to an idea or opinion. It may contain factual information, such as reasons, examples, or comparisons; however, its main purpose is not to inform, but to persuade the reader to think or act in a certain way. Examples include editorials or persuasive speeches and advertisements.*

1. Your teacher has decided to give tests in three subjects on one day. Persuade your teacher to spread out the tests over several days.
2. A historic building in your city is scheduled to be torn down. Write a letter to a city official explaining why the building should be preserved.
3. The school board is debating on whether or not to mandate school uniforms; write a persuasive essay either for or against the idea.
4. Write a letter home to mom/dad trying to persuade them to grant permission for something you want.
5. Traditionally, your school schedules a field trip to a state park. This year, the school is thinking about replacing the field trip with a presentation at the school from a state park representative. Write a persuasive essay either for or against the idea.
6. A litter problem has developed on your school's campus. Students are throwing trash on the ground, leaving empty soda cans and bottles outside on benches, and dropping napkins and other trash on the cafeteria floor rather than carrying them to the trash can or recycling bin. Your principal has asked students to take more care, but the litter problem persists. The principal has reacted by canceling all after-school activities until the problem is taken care of. What is your position on this issue? Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper stating your position and supporting it with convincing reasons.
7. Your class plans to start a garden as a class project and you need the help of businesses to make the garden happen. Write a letter to a local business to convince them to support your class garden with donations and volunteer support.
8. Soccer season begins next week. You have observed a new student on the playground who seems to be a good athlete. Write a note convincing him/her to join your team.
9. School is out for summer vacation and your parents are not sure if they will require you to stick to your regular bedtime. Write an essay explaining why you should or should not stick to your usual bedtime.
10. The President's Council on Physical Fitness has reported that 65 percent of all elementary students are seriously out of shape. The Council has recommended that elementary schools adopt a policy requiring physical education classes daily for all students. Your school is considering implementing this proposal. Write a letter to your principal expressing your agreement or disagreement with this proposed policy. State your reasons and please consider the other side of the argument.
11. Think about where people live. People live in small towns, large towns, or even big cities. Some people live on farms or in houses in the country. Think about where it is best to live and why. Choose the one place where you would like to live and give reasons why you think it is the best.
12. If you were to include an item or items in a time capsule that celebrated Indiana's bicentennial, what would it be? The item/items should exemplify the culture of the twenty-first century and reflect on the state's 200-year history. Convince the committee sponsoring the time capsule to include your item/items, explaining thoroughly the item's/items' use and significance to Indiana's history.
13. What is the most important (invention, historical event, author, idea) unique to Indiana? As someone who has studied this subject, convince your teachers and friends why it is the most significant Indiana (invention, historical event, author, idea).
14. You want to convince your parents to let you buy a very expensive item (TV, computer, vacation, etc.). Write to persuade them to purchase the item for you.
15. "Failure is often a better teacher than success." As someone who has experienced both, write a letter to a younger student either agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.