



6 Week Persuasive Writing/Debate Course

Course Structure:

Week 1: Introduction to Persuasive Writing/Brainstorm

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Meet fellow participants and discuss the course's goals and structure.
- **Overview of Persuasive Writing:** Introduction to the elements of persuasive writing (thesis, arguments, evidence, counter arguments).
- **The Five-Paragraph Essay Structure:** Detailed explanation of the structure and its importance in persuasive writing.
- **Activity/Assignment:** Brainstorm Topics of Interest (may be finished for “homework”)

Week 2: Plan/Crafting Strong Argument Introductions

- **Discussion:** Share and review topics of interest
- **Thesis Statement:** Create a thesis statement on a given topic.
- **Plan:** Students learn how to create their own 6 paragraph persuasive writing plan.
- Research , Discuss and add to Plan
- **Activity/ Assignment:** Develop three strong reasons/supporting arguments to support your thesis statement.

Week 3: Writing the Introduction and Supporting Argument Paragraphs

- **Crafting Introductions:** Techniques for writing engaging and effective introductions.
- **Concluding Persuasively:** How to write strong conclusions that reinforce your thesis and arguments.
- **Activity:** Write the introduction and conclusion for your essay.
- **Assignment:** Complete the first draft of your five-paragraph persuasive essay.

Week 4: Addressing Counter Arguments

- **Discussion:** Share and review arguments.
- **Understanding Counterarguments:** The importance of addressing opposing viewpoints in persuasive writing.
- **Refuting Counter Arguments:** Techniques for effectively refuting counter arguments.
- **Activity:** Identify potential counterarguments and write refutations for each.
- **Assignment:** Incorporate counter arguments and refutations into your essay.

Week 5: Revising and Polishing Your Essay

- **Discussion:** Share and review introductions and conclusions.
- **Revising Techniques:** Strategies for revising and improving your essay.
- **Editing for Clarity and Style:** Tips for editing to enhance clarity, coherence, and style.
- **Activity:** Peer review and provide feedback on each other's essays.
- **Assignment:** Revise and polish your persuasive essay based on feedback.

Week 6: Engaging in a Fun Debate

- **Preparation:** Finalize and submit your revised persuasive essay.
- **Debate Introduction:** Explanation of the debate format and rules.
- **Debate Teams:** Divide into teams based on essay topics and assign roles (e.g., opening statement, rebuttal, closing argument).
- **Debate Practice:** Prepare and practice your arguments and strategies with your team.
- **Fun Debate:** Engage in a lively and structured debate, presenting and defending your arguments.
- **Reflection and Closing:** Reflect on the debate experience, discuss what you've learned about persuasive writing, and celebrate your progress.