

Persuasive Writing

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Write an opening for a speech arguing that the school day should start later.

Step 1 · Hook with direct address

'Ladies and gentlemen, imagine dragging yourself out of bed while it is still dark outside.'

Step 2 · Rhetorical question

'How can we expect young people to learn at their best on so little sleep?'

Step 3 · Credibility

'Sleep researchers widely report that teenagers' body clocks shift later during adolescence.'

Step 4 · Check

Every technique supports one clear claim: later starts help learning.

Answer: Direct address, a rhetorical question and evidence, all serving one argument.

Check: Techniques build a case.

2. Now try one with the steps

Plan an argument: 'Every town should keep its public library.'

Step 1 · Position

Step 2 · Reasons

Step 3 · Counter

Step 4 · Close

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. What does DAFOREST stand for? [2]

2. Why is DAFOREST risky if used simple checklist? [2]

3. Give two ways to hook a reader in your opening. [1]
-
-
4. How many reasons should a typical paragraph contain? [1]
-
-
5. Write a list of three for a speech about saving a local park. [2]
-
-
6. What is a counter-argument and why include one? [2]
-
-
7. Where is the best place for the counter-argument, and why? [2]
-
-
8. How does an anecdote persuade? [2]
-
-
9. Write a rhetorical question for an article arguing against fast fashion. [1]
-
-
10. Rewrite in a reasoned tone: 'Anyone who drops litter is disgusting.' [2]
-
-
11. Write a rebuttal to: 'Homework teaches responsibility.' [2]
-
-
12. Why might a cyclical ending (echoing the opening) be effective in persuasive writing? [2]
-
-
13. What is the risk of inventing statistics in exam writing? [1]
-
-

14. Write a closing sentence with a call to action for a letter about saving a library. [2]

4. Before you hand it in

Using techniques random checklist with no real argument.

Decide the argument and structure first, then use two or three techniques per paragraph to strengthen each point.

One-sided ranting.

Stay passionate but fair; include a counter-argument.

Every paragraph starts with a rhetorical question.

Vary your openings: an anecdote, a fact, a short statement.

No ending, or a weak 'In conclusion, that is why...'. '

End with a call to action or an echo of your opening.