

Writing Assignment for Week #8

1. *The Power to Persuade*

You have been persuading others from before you could even speak. Whether it was to persuade your parents to give you something, take you somewhere or provide you something, you have used your power of persuasion to get what you want.

You have also been bombarded with the power of persuasion as a consumer through advertising of popular products such as the latest and greatest technological gadget to the brand of shoes and clothes that will make you “popular”.

As you get older, your life experiences allow you to form an opinion about things. You learn that you can use your opinions to influence others. In persuasive writing, your intent is to persuade the reader to agree or disagree with your opinion or take some kind of action.

2. *The Context of Your Writing Assignment*

Imagine you can have any animal (that you don't already have) in the world as a pet. Write a letter to your parent explaining why they should let you get this animal. Think about costs and housing as well as the benefits you will get from having it. You will need to come up with **three** solid reasons why your parents should go along with your request.

3. *Form*

Since you are writing a letter, you will need to begin your letter with the date and a greeting. In the body of your letter you will need to follow the persuasive writing structure of What-Why-Why-Why-What was that again?

- What: state what your opinion (or wish) is
- Why: explain reason #1 for your opinion
- Why: explain reason #2 for your opinion
- Why: explain reason #3 for your opinion
- What was that again?: Give a conclusion that restates your opinion/wish

4. *Language Features*

The following language features are commonly used in persuasive writing:

- use a knowledgeable and passionate voice
- use persuasive verbs (**should, need, must, I believe, I feel strongly**)
- use persuasive adverbs (**definitely, absolutely, most certainly, without a doubt**)
- connective phrases (**because of, as a result, so, therefore, moreover**)
- use transition words (**first, next finally**)

Let's get started....

Step	Action
#1	Watch the Youtube video of the story "I Wanna Iguana" by Karen Kaufman Orloff https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ethKslAQvo4
#2	Read the two examples of persuasive writing (Sample #1 and Sample #2) entitled "Cats are the Best Pet". Notice the difference between the two samples. What makes the second example better than the first. It is all in the details! The most persuasive writers give the reader convincing reasons for their opinion.
#3	Complete the "Persuasive List Planner" sheet in order to draft your ideas. Remember that the power to persuade comes from well thought out reasons to support your opinion.
#4	Use "The Best Pet Planner 2" to brainstorm an idea of a pet you would like to convince your parent to get.
#5	Watch the following Youtube video to review the parts of a friendly letter: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dYTsqqeH7g
#6	Create a good copy letter addressed to your parents that begins with the date and greeting then follows the persuasive writing form (what-why-why-why-what was that again?) in the body. You will need to add a closing and your name at the bottom of your letter. You may choose to type out your letter or write it neatly by hand. *Make sure that you proofread carefully for errors/typos