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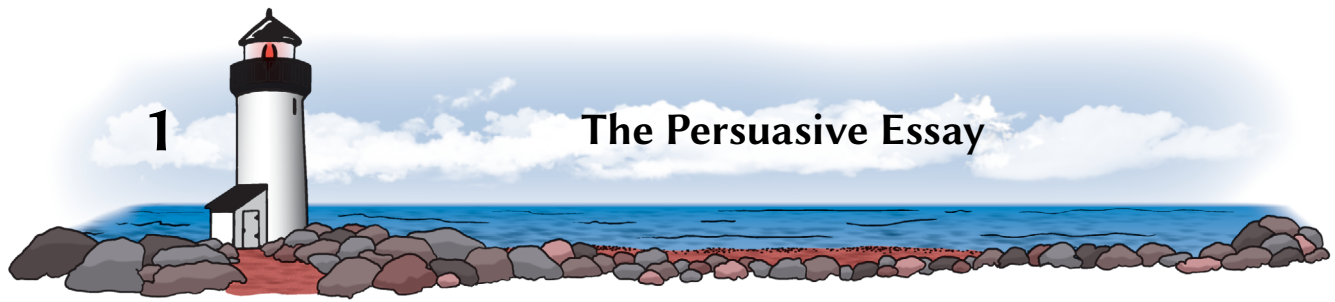
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## The Persuasive Essay

A persuasive essay is written to persuade others to share your beliefs, to convince them of certain values, or to cause them to think about their actions. A persuasive essay is different from a news article in that the writer states his opinion, usually giving strong reasons why he feels passionately about a subject.

The reality of a persuasive essay means that the subject chosen has more than one side. A writer can use different methods to persuade people to see his viewpoint. He may use logic or reasoning to support his opinions. He may share his own experiences that appeal to the emotions of a reader. He may state facts, evidence, or statistics that he gained through research.

### Long Summer Vacations—Help or Hindrance?

Eric wiped the mud from his face and sighed. “That took way longer than it should have,” he said to his friend Matt. “Next time, we’ll have to pick a better spot to get the lawn mower stuck!” he joked.

“Well, we couldn’t help that it slid back down the hill a couple of feet every time we took a break,” Matt said.

“Yeah, there was nothing we could use to keep it in place,” Eric agreed, “and we had to take those breaks.”

“Did we though? Maybe if we’d have taken just enough of a break to catch our breath, and taken more breaks instead of a couple of long ones, we wouldn’t have had to push the mower up the hill three times now,” Matt said.

That story is quite unrealistic. Nobody would risk losing progress made on a physical task just to take a good long break. Yet that happens yearly all over the country. Students gain hours upon hours of hard-won education for months on end—and periodically, inexplicably, take vacations long enough to lose up to 34 percent of what they learned that term.<sup>1</sup> In no other occupation or endeavor would it be acceptable to risk a third of the progress made just to take the usual break. It would be madness.

One unfortunate consequence of losing educational progress is the need to spend precious time reviewing the previous year’s work. Getting students back up to speed can take up to 10 percent of each school term. Over a 12-year education, that is more than an entire term spent reviewing. Summer vacation had better be worth it, given what it costs!



## Lesson 1

There is the issue of lost skills as well. Many skills, including the skill of studying, are perishable skills; they must be kept fresh to be effective. Students can definitely pick study skills up after summer break. However, students would not need to relearn their study skills in the first place if summer vacation were not so long. It is another example of progress wasted just so everyone can take the same length of break that they have always taken.

This is not an argument for doing away with vacation entirely. Students do need breaks. School is hard; it is as difficult as anything that they have done up to this point. What if, instead of taking one large chunk of vacation from June through August, students would take vacations of two or three weeks several times a year? They could have a bit of summer vacation, and still have significant vacations in the winter and the spring as well. Most importantly, they would not risk losing their hard-earned progress in school.

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<sup>1</sup>Atteberry, Allison, and Andrew McEachin. (2019). School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities. (EdWorkingPaper: 19-82). Retrieved from Annenberg Institute at Brown University: <https://doi.org/10.26300/2mam-bp02> 11/29/2022

**A** Begin thinking about a topic for your persuasive essay. What do you feel passionately about? You may choose a title listed below or choose one of your own that your teacher approves. You will begin researching and writing in Lesson 6.

- The Benefits of Good Work Habits
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is/Are Too Unhealthy to Be Eaten  
(fill in the blank with a junk food of your choice)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Best Way to Relax  
(fill in the blank with the name of a relaxing hobby)
- Why a Godly Woman Wears a Prayer Veiling
- Technology: Blessing or Curse?
- Sleep: An Essential of Wholeness
- Five Ways a Christian Will Not Spend His Money
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Most Important Household Skill  
(fill in the blank with the skill of your choice)

**B** Write two topics that interest you.

- ☐ 1. a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_



## Review

**C Rewrite each sentence correctly.**

2. A box was sitting on the table that was wrapped in shiny purple paper.

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3. Layla fried a large platter of pancakes humming a favorite song.

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**D Put brackets around each dependent clause. Circle each relative pronoun or subordinating conjunction.**

4. As Aaron rode his bike down the road, he practiced his Bible memory.
5. The verses, which he had to recite the next day, were from the Book of Philippians.
6. Because he was not paying attention, he ran into a telephone pole beside the road.
7. His mom was shocked and worried when he came in with a bloody nose and a scratched arm.

**E Write *E* if the underlined phrase is essential and *N* if it is nonessential. Add commas where needed.**

8. \_\_\_\_\_ Betelgeuse in the constellation Orion is about nine hundred times larger than the sun.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Betelgeuse is the second-brightest star in the constellation Orion.

**F Underline the correct word.**

10. The lady who took the order felt **bad**, **badly** about sending the textbooks to the incorrect address.
11. Matthew does **good**, **well** in his studies because he is careful and does his best in everything.
12. We thought **sure**, **surely** there would be a rainbow after the shower yesterday afternoon.

## Penmanship

**G Using your best handwriting, copy the sentences.**

A conservationist named John Muir believed that beautiful lands should be protected and preserved for the benefit of the American people. He was instrumental in establishing several national parks.



## Spelling – Patterns

### Spelling Words

|            |             |           |             |               |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| acronym    | collaborate | elevate   | interrogate | procrastinate |
| annihilate | consecrate  | enunciate | lubricate   | pseudonym     |
| anonymous  | cooperate   | formulate | nominal     | renown        |
| calculate  | deviate     | homonym   | nominate    | synonymous    |

The root *nym* comes from the Greek word *onyma*, “name.” The Latin equivalent is the root *nom*, from the word *nomen*.

**H** Write the spelling word that fits each description. Circle each *nom* or *nym* root.

13. \_\_\_\_\_ a word that is pronounced the same as another word but means something different
14. \_\_\_\_\_ to suggest someone for a position
15. \_\_\_\_\_ a fake name, often used for writing
16. \_\_\_\_\_ like a synonym; having the same meaning or significance
17. \_\_\_\_\_ not having a name or not being significant
18. \_\_\_\_\_ in name only; small or insignificant
19. \_\_\_\_\_ a word formed from the first letters of each word in a name or phrase

The suffix *-ate* sometimes forms verbs.

**I** Write the spelling word that fits each description.

20. \_\_\_\_\_ to figure or estimate
21. \_\_\_\_\_ to pronounce words and syllables clearly and distinctly
22. \_\_\_\_\_ to devote to a special purpose
23. \_\_\_\_\_ to depart from a normal, established path
24. \_\_\_\_\_ to put off things until later
25. \_\_\_\_\_ to make smooth or slippery to reduce friction
26. \_\_\_\_\_ to destroy completely or wipe out of existence

△ **J** Write the Section 1 spelling words in your notebook.