

How to Write A Persuasive Essay

- ❖ The purpose of persuasion is to influence the reader's thinking and perhaps adopt the writer's position.
- ❖ Constructing a sound argument requires writers to look critically at their thinking to understand others' points of view.
- ❖ The writer must be able to separate opinion from fact, to reason logically, and to provide solid supporting evidence.
- ❖ The strongest arguments appeal to the reader by making a sound, well-reasoned, and well-supported.
- ❖ A persuasive essay states a clear position or claim, has a convincing argument, and a reasonable tone.
- ❖ Good persuasive writing anticipates the reader's counterarguments and addresses them by either accommodating or refuting them.
- ❖ You should know your subject/topic and make sure you have the facts.
- ❖ You must take a stand—make up your mind and stick with it!
- ❖ Give evidence—supply the reader with sound reasons to be on your side. Don't just say the other ideas are stupid or dumb. Have good reasons for what you think.
- ❖ Picture the reader in your mind. Pretend he or she doesn't agree with you. Then decide how you will convince this stubborn person to believe as you do.
- ❖ You must offer three strong reasons/ideas why someone should believe you.
- ❖ Keep the big picture in mind by helping the reader make up his/her mind on your topic.
- ❖ Save your best point for last because what you say last tends to stick with the reader most.
- ❖ Use passion, not emotion. Care about your topic and let it show, but don't count on emotion to convince your reader. You need the force of LOGIC!
- ❖ Before you write do a "For and Against" chart in your prewriting to make sure you know both sides of the argument.
- ❖ You must include both sides of the argument in your essay.
- ❖ This could be written in either first or third person.
- ❖ Use contrasting Transitions in between all the EX's (However, On the contrary, In Contrast, Nonetheless, Nevertheless, Conversely, On the other hand, Unlike, etc.)

PERSUASIVE WRITING CHECKLIST

Quick check for the writer

Did you...

- _____ Consider all evidence before making up your mind? – Do a for/against chart?
- _____ Choose ONE position and stick with it?
- _____ Make your position very clear to the reader and use correct person?
- _____ Provide the reader with GOOD, SOUND reasons for agreeing with you?
- _____ Use facts, examples and observations to make your argument STRONG?
- _____ Avoid sounding angry, too emotional, or sarcastic?
- _____ Consider what the other side might have to say?
- _____ Show the reader the weakness in opposing arguments?
- _____ Defend your position with wit, humor, zest, and confidence?
- _____ Put both sides of the argument in GDT and don't use the key points from the side you choose?
- _____ Use your weakest point first and your strongest point last?
- _____ Use contrasting transitions in between the Ex.'s (however, in contrast, on the other hand, notwithstanding, whereas, conversely, etc.)?
- _____ Keep your Title, Hook, GDT, Summary, and Clincher in 3rd person and general?

Catching Frisbees or Catching Mice?

(Hook) Which is better, cats or dogs? (Gen disc) There are many dog lovers all over the world. Dogs can guard a house and are fun to play with, but their barking can disturb neighbors. Dog owners also have to clean up after their pet. Many favor cats over dogs. Cats are smaller and a little harder to “play with,” but often require much less attention. (Thesis) Cats are better than a “man’s best friend” because they are cleaner, easier to take care of, and help their owners.

(TS) To begin with, cats are superior to dogs because they are more hygienic. (1st pt) First, cats bathe themselves. (Ex) Cats spend a large portion of the day licking their fur. Because they bathe themselves, frequent baths with water and shampoo aren’t necessary. **In contrast**, dogs can get very messy and some dog owners must constantly wash their pet. (2nd pt) Moreover, cats use a litter box to relieve themselves. (Ex) All that cat owners have to do to clean up is to scoop out their pet’s droppings every couple of days. Dog owners **however**, must make sure their dog is not leaving waste in places that it shouldn’t. (CS) To sum up, cats are much neater than dogs because they constantly wash themselves and self-regulate themselves with a litter box.

(TS) In addition, cats are easier to take care of than dogs because they require less attention and do not agitate people. (1st pt) To start with, cats require much less consideration than dogs do. (Ex) Many cats are not social at all, and just want food and water (a litter box helps). Dogs, **on the other hand**, require walks in which the owner must pick up after them, baths, and sometimes even grooming, and time for play and praise. (2nd pt) Furthermore, cats are less demanding than dogs because they do not disturb others. (Ex) Cats are quiet and usually will not anger neighbors (unless they find “surprises” in their flowerbeds). The neighbors of a dog owner, **however**, might call the police due to loud barking or piles of excitement on their lawn. (CS) Therefore, cats are less complicated to own than dogs.

(TS) Finally, cats are a much better-quality pet than dogs because they assist their owners. (1st pt) One, cats are hunters, and they catch intruders like rodents around the house. (Ex) While cats catch mice and other unwanted pests, dogs do nothing of the sort. Dogs are often pests themselves chewing, digging, and destroying! (2nd pt) In addition to getting rid of unwanted pests, petting cats can help to relieve stress. (Ex) Studies have shown that petting cats can help to alleviate tension. Dog owners get stress relief from their dogs as well, but do not get to hear the satisfied purrs of a cat. (CS) In short, cats help their owners by catching rodents and reducing anxiety.

(Restate thesis) In conclusion, cats are a more desirable pet than dogs because they are much more tidy, easier to tend to, and assist their owners. (Summary) Cats are more sanitary than dogs because they regularly bathe themselves and use a litter box. Cats are easier handle because they require less attention and do not disturb others. Cats make great companions to their owners by eliminating unwanted pests and removing tension. (Clincher) In the words of Mark Twain, “If animals could speak, the dog would be a blundering, outspoken fellow, but the cat would have the rare grace of never saying a word too much.”

Canine Verses Feline

(Hook) People often argue about which pets are the most desirous to own: cat or dog? (GDT) Some feel that dogs are the more intelligent animals because they can be trained to do amazing tricks such as leaping over obstacles and weaving in and out of poles. Conversely, others have believe that cats are the higher quality animal because they are quieter and demand less attention. (Thesis) Dogs, however, have more favorable aspects for them than cats because they are good for camaraderie, are playful, and maintain loyalty in cases when their owners are faced with peril.

(TS) To begin with, dogs, unlike cats, are beneficial for their keeper's well-being in the approach that they force their owners to get exercise and comfort them emotionally. (1st Pt.) First, dogs require daily exercise, which pushes their owners to be active, while cats are an independent and somewhat sluggish species. (Ex.) Since dogs must be walked at least once a day to keep fit and release excrement, their caretaker has to get up off the couch from viewing television, escort it around the block a few times, and in the act, get their own heart pumping. Anyone who has a dog does not have the excuse to be obese because they need to take their pet out every day and in the process are worked out themselves. **In contrast**, a cat would not put up with being tied on a leash and taken for a stroll. They prefer to roam around on their own or simply take refuge from the rest of the world by lurking in the dark space under the bed, which does not in any way contribute to an owner's health. (2nd Pt.) Second, dogs are sympathetic and will enliven their depressed owners more efficiently than cats. (Ex.) For example, when one is disgruntled after losing their job, a dog would amble up to them whimpering with its head down and its tail between its legs and rest its head on the person's knee for them to stroke it. This is useful for humans because they would forget their troubles for a moment and focus on the affectionate creature. Plus, it is sometimes easier to deal with animals than people when a person is frustrated with the world of humans. **On the other hand**, since a cat usually chooses to be discreet and hide in shadows, closets, and their litter box, it is not concerned for its caretaker's sentimental welfare, which is of no gain for the person. (CS) Therefore, dogs are more advantageous for people to own than cats as they are more apt to accommodate their masters.

(TS) In addition, dogs are more amusing than cats in numerous ways, which makes them more enjoyable to interact with and be entertained. (1st Pt.) To start with, a dog will enthusiastically take part in a game of catch, while a cat would glare at one with a superior expression on its face if one attempted to engage in recreation with it. (Ex.) One can carry out wonderful events with a dog such as throwing a disc and watching it as his companion lightheartedly bounds across the field and jumps into the air to grab the toy in its mouth before running back and setting it down at the owner's feet. Dogs are always eager to be paid attention to and will seize anything tossed to them in a frisky fashion. **In contrast**, a cat does not value physical activity and would probably sit down, stare with a smug appearance, or most likely, turn and saunter away with its tail in the air and its supreme dignity intact if one tried to get it to snatch a Frisbee. (2nd Pt.) Furthermore, a dog is more comical than a cat because it will chase and leap around while a cat would lie on the ground. (Ex.) Dogs will scamper and bounce with people outside in a good-natured way and desire to have as much excitement as possible. Because of their accepting nature, they will submit to being pursued, hugged, and pat by children and adults at any place or time as well as play a game of catch or hide-and-go-seek. Cats, **however**, are extremely irritable, believe that they are above all other beings, and would probably viciously scratch or bit if one tried to encourage it to scurry about. (CS) Thus, dogs are prominent over cats because they will participate in pastimes such as catching objects and pursuing interaction.

(TS) Finally, dogs would risk their lives to protect and save people while cats would be selfish and only worried about their personal safety or next meal. (1st Pt.) One, in case of emergency, a dog is the best pet and pal because it will be caring for humans in dangerous situations while a cat would flee in a cowardly style or not heed the hazard. (Ex.) If an armed burglar were to break through a window into someone's house to steal items and possibly injure the residents, a dog would aggressively bark, growl, or snap at the stranger with the intent of guarding the humans from any harm the person may inflict upon them. A dog would rather die than allow anyone to hurt someone that they are close with and will do anything to defend their companions. Since cats do not normally seek out human contact unless there is food involved, they would most likely check to see if the trespasser had any catnip and then dash to a secure location when faced with this scenario. Cats are not defensive creatures and would not endanger their personal existence for the fortification of others. (2nd Pt.) Two, dogs will rescue people in hazardous states of affair while the less valuable cats would not have the courage to be heroic. (Ex.) If a dog's caretaker were drowning in freezing water and suffering from hypothermia, a dog would immediately plunge into the ice-cold water, swim across to their friend, clamp onto the distressed owner's shirt collar with its teeth, and drag them safely to shore. By not being self-centered about their own security, they would preserve the life of someone else when they necessitate it most. A cat would observe the person but not go near the liquid because of their fear of water as well as that they would not have the physical ability to salvage the person in such a dire position. (CS) All in all, dogs are more devoted and therefore more preferable than cats because they maintain a sense of precaution.

(RT) In conclusion, dogs substantially surpass cats as the king of companions because they are the perfect pets for people, fun-filled, and apprehensive of others' security. (Summary) Dogs look to be with people and have a marvelous time; cats, on the other hand, think that they are the finest and do not want to cooperate with beings they feel to be below them. If humans had the personalities of these two types of animals, people with a dog-like character would be the ones that people would want to be around, and cat-like people would be stuck-up, self-centered people. (Clincher) Speaking metaphorically, a dog has a smile on its face while a cat has its nose high in the air.