

5

PERSUASIVE WRITING

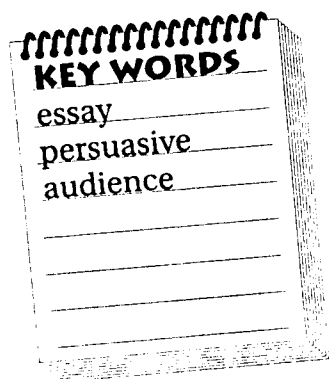
WHAT THIS EPISODE IS ABOUT

In this episode, students will learn a step-by-step process for writing persuasive essays. Persuasive essays are opinions backed up by facts and examples. By the end of the lesson, students will be able to

- ✎ define the term *persuasive writing*
- ✎ apply the writing process to writing a persuasive essay
- ✎ develop an organized persuasive essay containing focused, well-developed ideas

VIDEO SUMMARY

Ms. Scott, sponsor of the writing club, tells the students about an essay-writing contest that a local television station is sponsoring. A prize will be awarded for the best persuasive essay about the environment.



Bryan, Kyle, and Brad tour the Science Museum to brainstorm ideas for their essay. They decide to write about endangered animals.

Later, the three boys visit a wildlife park. A guide tells them about the endangered gopher tortoise and how the extinction of the tortoise would have a negative effect on the survival of other animals.

The boys work on the three parts of their essay: the introduction, the body, and the conclusion. Bryan, Kyle, and Brad win the contest with their essay and get to read it on television.

BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO

Ask the class to discuss what it means to "persuade" someone. Select an important or controversial issue and encourage stu-



dents to discuss how they might persuade another person to share a particular view on that issue.

Tell students to watch the video to see how the writing process is used to write a persuasive essay.

WHILE VIEWING THE VIDEO

1. After Bryan, Kyle, and Brad brainstorm ideas for their essay, PAUSE the video and divide the class into groups of three or four students. Guide the students to choose topics for persuasive essays.

The essays should deal with an issue that the group feels strongly about.

2. After the boys write their rough draft, PAUSE the video and ask students to write rough drafts of their essays. The essays should include a introduction, an argument for the issue (with reasons to support the argument), and a conclusion.
3. After Bryan, Kyle, and Brad write their rough draft, PAUSE the video. Ask students to work with another group to revise their essays. Each group should give the other group constructive suggestions for improving the essays.

AFTER VIEWING THE VIDEO

After the essays are revised, share them with the whole class. You may wish to explore the possibility of publishing the essays in the school newspaper.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Give students an assignment to write a persuasive essay on some issue at your school, such as the question of whether students should be required to wear uniforms.

Share the completed essays with the class.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Writing Argumentative Essays

<http://cougar.vut.edu.au/~dalbj/arguweb/frntpage.htm>

The UVic Writer's Guide

<http://www.clearcf.uvic.ca/writersguide/Pages/MasterToc.html>

Writing a Basic Essay

<http://members.aol.com/lklingstn/essay/>