ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Persuasive writing

Difficulty level: Intermediate

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you convince someone to see your side, whether you are writing a letter asking for a later curfew or an essay arguing for a school change. A curfew letter works when it gives reasons a parent can accept, not just when it says please, and an essay works when its reasons hold up for a reader who disagrees. The same skill sells an idea at work, like asking a boss for new equipment with reasons that show it will help the whole team. Persuasion is not about being loud, it is about giving the other person a good reason to agree.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Strengthen this argument: 'School should start later.' Add one reason.

SOLUTION

Ask: what reason supports a later start? Students would sleep more.

Add evidence: sleep improves focus and results.

So: School should start later because students would sleep more, which improves focus and results.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Strengthen this argument: 'We should recycle.' Add one reason.

SOLUTION

Ask: what reason supports recycling? It saves resources.

Add evidence: recycling paper saves trees.

So: We should recycle because it saves resources, such as the trees saved by recycling paper.

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Practice questions

1 **Strengthen: 'Libraries need more funding.' Which reason best supports it?**

- **A** Libraries already have enough money.
- **B** Libraries lend books and study space that students depend on.
- **C** Books are heavy to carry home.
- **D** Some libraries close early on Sundays.

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2 Which reason does NOT support 'Exercise should be daily in schools'?

- **A** Daily exercise improves health and focus.
- **B** Exercise makes you tired after a long run.
- **C** Daily exercise builds strong hearts.
- **D** Exercise helps students concentrate.

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3 Who would be most persuaded by the reason 'Shorter homework leaves time for rest and family'?

- **A** Parents
- **B** People who sell notebooks
- **C** People who dislike families
- **D** People who want longer school days

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4 What is the strongest argument AGAINST 'We should plant more trees'?

- **A** Trees clean air and give shade.
- **B** Planting trees costs money and takes space.
- **C** Some trees grow very tall.
- **D** Trees drop leaves that need sweeping.

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5 Which is EVIDENCE for 'Breakfast should be eaten daily'?

- **A** Breakfast gives energy for the school day.
- **B** Breakfast is the best meal.
- **C** Everyone loves breakfast.
- **D** Breakfast tastes good.

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6

'Screens should be limited because screens are fun to watch.' What is wrong with this reason?

A It supports the opposite side.

B It is too long.

C It mentions children.

D It is a fact.

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7

Which reason best supports 'Bikes are better than cars for short trips' for a reader who cares about money?

A Bikes cost less to run than cars.

B Bikes cause no exhaust.

C Bikes have two wheels.

D Some people do not own a bike.

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8 **Which sentence is a FACT that could support 'Reading should be part of every day'?**

- **A** Studies show children who read daily score higher on vocabulary tests.
- **B** Reading is wonderful.
- **C** Everyone should read more.
- **D** Books are the best.

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9 **'Saving water protects a limited resource, so towns should fix leaking pipes.' What is the CLAIM?**

- **A** Towns should fix leaking pipes.
- **B** Saving water protects a limited resource.
- **C** Water is a limited resource.
- **D** Pipes sometimes leak.

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10

Which ending best closes an essay arguing 'Team sports should be offered to all students'?

A. For all these reasons, every student deserves the chance to play, grow, and belong on a team.

B. Team sports can be tiring.

C. Some sports need a large field.

D. Sports trophies are made of gold.

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ANSWER KEY

1. Libraries lend books and study space that students depend on.
2. Exercise makes you tired after a long run.
3. Parents
4. Planting trees costs money and takes space.
5. Breakfast gives energy for the school day.
6. It supports the opposite side.
7. Bikes cost less to run than cars.
8. Studies show children who read daily score higher on vocabulary tests.
9. Towns should fix leaking pipes.
10. For all these reasons, every student deserves the chance to play, grow, and belong on a team.

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