

Arguing Effectively

In writing and in debate



Persuasive Essays

- Well-constructed introductions
 - Capture the interest of your reader
 - Give appropriate background information
 - Summarize the ideas to be presented
 - Present a clear statement of thesis: your **ARGUMENT**
 - Present the **WHAT** and **HOW** of your argument - **WHAT** are you arguing and **HOW** will you prove your point?

Getting the Reader to Accept

- Each paragraph of an essay should present a single unified idea or set of ideas to support your argument
- Paragraphs should build on one another
- Each main idea should be elaborated upon (explained further) with appropriate details
- Arguments must be logical

Conclusions of Papers

- Restate the paper's argument
- Restate how you have supported that argument
- Draws together the “threads” of the paper's arguments and shows where your paper has gone
- Remind the reader why the topic is important

Solid oral debates

- Are based on solid written preparatory notes
- Have a central arguing point and thesis, much like an essay
- Have a series of “points” that support the thesis
- Have strong supporting evidence for each point
 - Facts
 - Figures
 - Pictures and drawings
 - True stories
 - Examples

A logical argument...

- Is based on fact, not only opinion
- Can be supported with evidence that is irrefutable (cannot be argued with as untrue - people may not like it, but that cannot argue with its truth)
- Has no “holes” in it that people can “pick out” because the argument is “incomplete”

Try this argument

- In your squads, prepare an argument to present to the class on the following topic:

People should be allowed to burn the American Flag in protest

Remember the First Amendment right to free speech