

I'm not a bot



There's probably no shortage of opinions in your classroom. All day, every day, your students are sharing their thoughts on a variety of subjects, from why green is their favorite color to why they despise broccoli (even though it's green). But while those opinions provide a great opportunity for you to get to know your students, they're not always well structured, persuasive, or backed up with facts. Teaching students to develop ideas and thoughts on important subjects, organize them, and then transform them into a strong, persuasive opinion takes time. Opinion writing is often complex and requires higher-order skills, such as evaluation and verification. Students must also understand the difference between fact and opinion—that facts can inform opinion, but not vice-versa—and that word choice is an important aspect of writing. All of this means that students can feel a bit overwhelmed when tasked with expressing their opinion, even though it's something they do every day. Graphic organizers are great tools to help students develop well-supported opinions and improve their powers of persuasion. An organizer can help students expand and shape their thoughts in ways that simplify the writing process—once students fill out the graphic organizer, it becomes a resource they can reference while composing their opinion piece. Wondering which graphic organizers will be most helpful to your young opinion writers? Check out these 6 resources, perfect for any student looking to make a strong case: 1. Opinion-Proof (Grades 4-8) This framework sheet helps students develop and use higher-order skills, such as evaluation, verification, and persuasion, to compose convincing arguments. 2. Writing Graphic Organizer. Perfectly Persuasive (Grades 4-6) Use this graphic organizer to help students build persuasive writing skills as they write essays or letters to the editor. 3. Fact/Opinion Glasses: Lesson Plan & Graphic Organizer (Grades 1-3) These glasses help students develop the most important skill when it comes to effective opinion writing: being able to see the difference between fact and opinion. 4. Agree or Disagree? Graphic Organizer (Grades 2-4) Students learn how to express and support their agreement, or disagreement, with a character's statement, opinion, or action. 5. Persuasive Essay (Nonfiction Writing): Leveled Graphic Organizers (Grades 4-8) It's one thing to have an opinion, but can your students convince their classmates their thoughts are correct? This graphic organizer set can help! To see more graphic organizers and gain access to thousands of printable and downloadable teacher resources that will help your kids develop the power of persuasion and other skills, log in or subscribe to Scholastic Teachables today! Overview Expository writing is an increasingly important skill for elementary, middle, and high school students to master. This interactive graphic organizer helps students develop an outline that includes an introductory statement, main ideas they want to discuss or describe, supporting details, and a conclusion that summarizes the main ideas. The tool offers multiple ways to navigate information including a graphic in the upper right-hand corner that allows students to move around the map without having to work in a linear fashion. The finished map can be saved, e-mailed, or printed. Writing worksheets can help your child develop essential writing and literacy skills needed for school and life. If you're a teacher or parent looking for printable and digital writing resources to help your student learn a writing concept, look no further! TPT has an extensive collection of resources, created by other teachers, that are designed to help with any need across grade levels.For elementary students who are just learning to write, you can use worksheets to practice letter formation. Students in middle and high school can use learning stations to learn how to write and revise essays. With plenty of TPT resources at your fingertips, you can sharpen your student's writing skills in no time. Extend writing activities beyond the classroom and observe as your child nurtures their imagination, enriches their vocabulary, and enhances their storytelling prowess. Fun and engaging writing activities to tryHere are a few ideas for writing activities — from our teacher-created resources — that you can find on TPT and that are designed to teach students how to write effectively. (Pro tip: These worksheets serve as an excellent complement to our reading materials.) JournalingEncourage students to keep daily journals where they can freely express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. This practice helps them develop their writing style and build the habit of writing regularly. Writing Prompts Provide engaging prompts that encourage imaginative storytelling. For instance, you could ask students to write about a world without the internet, or ask them to describe something only using one of their five senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, or taste). Peer EditingHave students exchange their written work with a peer for feedback. This helps them strengthen their ability to identify and correct mistakes in grammar, punctuation, and spelling; give constructive criticism; and revise their writing based on feedback. Sentence and Paragraph ConstructionProvide sentence and paragraph building exercises to help students understand the basic structure of writing and how to organize their ideas coherently. Letter WritingAsk students to write letters to real or fictional recipients. They could compose formal letters, persuasive letters on specific topics, thank-you notes, or postcards. BloggingCreate a classroom blog where students can publish their writing for a wider audience. This teaches them to write for a purpose and consider their audience's perspective. Research PapersGuide students through the process of researching and writing informative or argumentative essays. Teach them how to construct persuasive arguments and counterarguments on various topics, include evidence, and cite sources. Poetry WritingExplore different forms of poetry, such as haikus, sonnets, and free verse. Encourage students to experiment with imagery, rhythm, and metaphor.By incorporating these (and other!) writing activities into your lesson plans, you can nurture a love for writing. Frequently asked questions about teaching writingWhat types of writing resources are available on TPT?There are many different types of writing resources sold by Sellers on TPT. Some popular writing lessons include creative writing, poetry, writing essays, writing expository, and handwriting. How do I find writing lessons on TPT?Educators can save time preparing writing lessons with resources created by experienced teachers. Simply start a search for writing resources on the TPT marketplace, and filter by grade level, price, and/or resource type to find materials that've been proven to work in classrooms like yours. No matter what you're teaching, there are plenty of writing lessons and activities sold by Sellers on TPT that are tailored to meet your students' skill levels. Hamburger Paragraph WritingVersion 1 FREE Use the hamburger organizer to design the perfect paragraph. The main version has lines to write on. If you'd like a version without lines, click the "Alt" button below.2nd and 3rd GradesHamburger Paragraph WritingVersion 2Here's another hamburger paragraph writing organizer. This version has lots of space to write the topic sentence, details, and closing sentence. If you'd like a color version, click the "Alt" button below.2nd and 3rd GradesHamburger Paragraph WritingVersion 3This is yet another version on the hamburger writing activity. This organizer has the hamburger parts spread out. If you'd like to print this worksheet in full-color, use the "Alt" button below.2nd and 3rd GradesWriting a Paragraph - RobotWrite the main idea on the robot's body. The details go on his arms and legs. The main version has no lines. If you'd like writing lines, click the "ALT" version below.)Persuasive Writing Graphic OrganizerThis organizer will help students plan their persuasive writing essays. There are boxes for opinion, reasons, and details. There's also a special box for a counterargument.3rd through 6th GradesThis web has a circle in the center for main idea and four large circles for supporting details.This web contains six sections for supporting details and one main topic section in the middle.This web has 9 sections - one for topic and 8 for details.On this web, students write their topic in the center box. On the outer spokes/boxes, they describe observations that they see, hear, smell, touch, and taste.2nd through 4th GradesOn this web, students will choose a topic and then write about how they observe the topic with their 5 senses.2nd through 4th GradesThis t-chart does not have lines for writing. You have just found the best persuasive essay graphic organizers! These organizers guide students through everything from choosing a topic to considering stakeholders to organizing the essay, and that's not all! Persuasive Essay Graphic Organizers for Finding a Topic In Teaching Adolescent Writers, Kelly Gallagher states, "Choice generates a welcome chain reaction: it creates student buy-in, which in turn generates writing motivation, which in turn causes students to write better. Choice is where it starts for reluctant writers. . . ." What a difference choice can make! We have a curriculum to follow, but we can spice up the entire writing process if we allow students choices. And what better way to begin than by permitting them to choose their topics for this essay? Good and Bad Ideas For this activity, students create a table with three headings: home, school, and community/world. Under each heading, they write good ideas and bad ideas. Next, they brainstorm ideas they think are worthy and unworthy under the appropriate section (e.g., curfews, cell phones in schools, high heels). After they finish their brainstorming, they choose three ideas they are most interested in writing about and list them in order of preference. (I ask for three so students can change topics if theirs doesn't lend itself to persuasive writing or if they're later having trouble finding credible research, for example.) Topics for Persuasive Essay Another way to offer choice is to provide students with a list of topics. They circle or highlight the ones they find interesting and then choose the three they're most interested in writing about. If they have a topic they feel strongly about that's not on the list, then they can add it with your approval. Persuasive Essay Graphic Organizer for Considering Stakeholders Stakeholders' Viewpoints This activity is a shorter version of Gallagher's "Four-Sided Argument." (He teaches high school and has students write a page for each stakeholder; I work with middle school and have students bullet points for each stakeholder. Use what works best for your students.) Considering the perspectives of people who may be affected by the topic allows students to see other points of view. Until researching, most teenagers won't consider changing their viewpoints, but this lesson helps them ponder opposing arguments and prepare to write a more convincing essay. To complete this activity, they create a table with four sections. In each section, they note an individual with a different opinion on the topic and note their points of view. (It's important to choose people whose opinions differ.) Persuasive Essay Graphic Organizers for Brainstorming Supporting Evidence and Opposing Viewpoints T-Chart The t-chart is a super simple organizer, but it's perfect for the persuasive essay. It can be created as soon as students decide on topics and added to as they research and consider other viewpoints. Students use markers to draw lowercase t's on their papers (large enough to take up a page in a composition book). They write their position at the top of the t, for on one side, and against on the other. They then list reasons that support their positions on the for side and reasons that oppose their positions on the against side. This activity ends with them selecting their three best supporting reasons and one important opposing reason. Persuasive Essay Graphic Organizer for Researching Note Cards While creating example responses for this blog post and my products, I decided to write about allowing students to have cell phones in school. Honestly, I chose this topic because I already know about it through research and experience. Now, if I had class time to research as my students would, I might choose high heels for my topic. (They look great, but what are they doing to our feet?) I share this with you because most students will need time to research. They don't have enough experience to just pull something out of a hat. I find it helpful to provide them with notecards when they're researching so they can remember what information was given, who said it, and where they found it. They're easy to create. Just insert a table into a Google or Word doc with the following headings: Name Topic Research Question Notes and Quotes from Research Citation I also model this process for them with whatever topic I'm working on because they'll need to know how to write good research questions (not a simple question for Alexa), find credible resources (e.g., databases or Google advanced search with .edu, .gov, or .org), and cite those sources correctly (using easybib.com, for example). Persuasive Essay Graphic Organizers for Organizing Bruffee's Organizational Patterns I learned about Bruffee's Organizational Patterns from Joyce Armstrong Carroll and Edward E. Wilson's Acts of Teaching: How to Teach Writing. What I love about it is that Bruffee gives writers different ways to organize essays so they're not limited to a standard five-paragraph essay. Also, after manipulating the cards into the various patterns, students again have choice, for they choose the reasons they want to include and the pattern they think is most effective. Preparing the Cards For this activity, each student will need index cards with different colors: One blue index card for the introduction One orange index card for the conclusion One yellow index card for the opposing argument Three green index cards for the supporting reasons (Use whatever cards you have, but make sure they include four different colors with the same color for the supporting reasons.) After distributing the cards to students, demonstrate the following for students one step at a time as they imitate you. Introduction Card Title this card introduction, and write a few reminders (e.g., hook, transition, claim/thesis statement) and your claim on this card. Then have students do the same. (By this time, they have decided their positions on their topics, so they should have a claim, but it can be revised later if needed.) Conclusion Card Again, write conclusion and a few reminders for concluding a persuasive essay (e.g., summary and call to action) on this card. Supporting Reason Cards Title each of these cards reason and write one supporting reason on each card with three details for support. (They should refer to their t-charts for these.) Opposing Argument Card Title this card opposing argument and write the opposing reason that the writer might argue against. Manipulating the Cards Here's the part where the magic happens. Again, walk students through each step, having them arrange the cards into the four patterns, noting that each card represents a paragraph and that the essay will always begin with the introduction and end with the conclusion. Two Reasons For this organizational pattern, you'll use the cards that include the supporting reasons (not the opposing argument). Arrange the cards in the order that you think works best for the essay (between the introduction and the conclusion). If you're allowing students to turn in only one page of writing (because of state testing expectations, for example), then use only the two best reasons so that they'll have space to fully develop these ideas. If you have two reasons that you think are fabulous and one that is mediocre, then consider omitting the third reason. Nestorian Order For this pattern, you'll again use the cards that include the supporting reasons (and not the opposing argument), but this time, you're going to put them in this order: Your next-to-best reason first (first body paragraph) Your least best reason second (second body paragraph) Your best reason third (third body paragraph) As Dr. JAC says, you'll start with a punch and end with a bang. I like this strategy because I've graded papers that have started out strong, on their way to an A, then ended weak, weak enough to lose that A. Hence, writers want to end as strongly as they begin. Again, if you need to omit a paragraph, then set the least best reason aside. Strawman and One Reason You'll use this pattern if you have a valid counterargument you can refute. I prefer knocking down the opposing argument immediately, in the first body paragraph, but I've seen writers do this in the last body paragraph too. Use whichever way works best for your essay. Then place the supporting cards one after the other, bringing in one to three of your supporting reasons. I like to bring in Nestorian Order here too (as long as it makes sense with the rest of the essay). By the way, Texas teachers, this pattern will come in handy for the revised STAAR test. For grades eight and up on the argumentative essay of the 2022 STAAR, the argumentative rubric notes that counterarguments must be identified and refuted to score a three. (There are differences between a persuasive and argumentative essay, but both can refute an opposing argument.) Concession For this pattern, you'll again need the card with the opposing argument along with the three supporting cards. However, instead of knocking down the argument, you'll acknowledge it (e.g., yes, this is true, but . . .). As with Strawman, I prefer the concession to serve as my first body paragraph, but I've seen it as the last body paragraph too. Again, use what makes sense for your essay. Bring in the supporting cards, one after the other, omitting one or two reasons if needed. Outline for a Persuasive Essay with Bruffee's It's time to bring this activity to an end. Decide which pattern works best, and tape your cards onto a sheet of computer paper in that order (introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion). You now have an outline to guide you as your draft your persuasive essay! Templates for Persuasive Essays Use one to two-page PowerPoint or Google slides to create templates for each pattern with reminders. Just insert boxes and text, and change your slide size to 8 ½ by 11" portrait (in the U.S.). For the strawman pattern with one page, you can write the following reminders in each box: Introduction (with hook, transition, and claim) Important opposing argument you can refute (knock down) Reason #1 (your best reason developed with specific facts, details, and opinions) Conclusion (Summary or Call to Action) Related Links Persuasive Essay Graphic Organizers (TPT store) Effective Persuasion Presentation - Purdue OWL® - Purdue University Argumentative vs. Persuasive Writing (mass.edu) How to Write a Persuasive Essay: Tips and Tricks | Grammarly Graphic Organizers for Persuasive Writing in a Nutshell Create a good and bad idea graphic organizer to help you choose your topic. Brainstorm supporting evidence and opposing arguments on a t-chart. Consider stakeholders with a table with four boxes. Research on a note card. Add additional reasons (that both support and oppose your position) to your t-chart, and circle the three best supporting reasons and one valid opposing reason. Use Bruffee's Organizational Patterns to determine the most effective way to organize your essay and to guide you as you write your essay. Grab these persuasive essay graphic organizers at my TPT store or make them yourself, but make sure to use them! Save time and discover engaging curriculum for your classroom. Reviewed and rated by trusted, credentialed teachers. Try It Free About this printout Use this graphic organizer to develop a persuasive stance for an essay, speech, poster, or any type of assignment that incorporates persuasion. Teaching with this printout Examples of persuasion surround our lives, and the ability to persuade others is a powerful asset. We can persuade people to act in our favor, help them to see our point of view, and sway their opinion to that of our own. The power of persuasion is far reaching, and it is a technique that students will use throughout their lives. This tool helps students formulate ideas for a persuasive argument by helping them determine their goal or thesis, identify three reasons to support it (with three facts or examples to support each reason), and restate the thesis in a conclusion statement. Before your students use this tool independently, model its use for them. Choose a simple topic (such as, "Sixth Grade is the Best Grade" or "Why Our Lunch Period Should be Longer"). Then, fill in the Persuasion Map while discussing the process aloud, displaying the tool so that all students can see it. Review students' completed maps prior to having them continue with the persuasion assignment. This will provide you with an opportunity to check students' understanding of persuasion and help those who need extra instruction. More ideas to try Have students analyze a persuasive piece (for example, an advertisement or editorial in a newspaper or magazine) by filling in the map and discussing the authors' strategies of persuasion. Encourage older students to create propaganda-based assignments by having them incorporate deceptive language in some of the "reasons" or "examples" on their maps. (Propaganda is a form of persuasion that uses deceptive language to exaggerate, distort, or conceal information.) Upon completion, have students read their maps orally and/or display them for their peers. Have students identify the deceptive language in their peers' maps to create a class list of the examples used. As an additional follow-up, students can view and read advertisements, newspaper editorials, and other text that contain propaganda to search for use of the examples on the class list and to add additional ones. Have students complete two maps based on the same goal but with two different targeted audiences in mind. Attention to audience is an essential element of effective persuasion. For example, students might create maps to market a particular children's toy; one map could target children as the audience, and the other could focus on parents as the audience. After they have completed their maps, have students read them to the class without identifying the intended audience. Ask the rest of the class to determine the intended audience and identify the specific clues that prompted their deductions. Finally, as a class, compare and contrast the language and words used for each intended audience.