

Let's Write: Write a Persuasive Essay

Persuasive means convincing others to agree with your opinion. We have an opinion for different reasons. When we want to persuade people, we share our reasons. Reasons help them understand why we believe our opinion.

In classes, we write persuasive essays to argue a point. You could write about the best job or best ship. You could also share that you like a certain job better than another job. You have reasons to support this opinion. In class, we write an opinion as a topic sentence. Then, we write more sentences (or paragraphs) that share reasons for our opinion.

Step 1. Write the opinion.

Opinions give you something to convince people about. Persuasive essays show how we can support our opinions. It is like creating an argument. The first step is to clearly state the opinion.

For example, here are some opinions written as topic sentences:

- Captains and sailors have the most important job of testing things.
- I think benefits managers have the best job.

Complete these sentences to write clear topic sentences about an opinion:

1. The best part of building ships would be _____.

2. I think shipbuilding is a _____ job.

3. Write an opinion topic sentence about being a ship captain.

Remember to check that your sentences have correct capitalization, punctuation, subject, and verb!

Step 2. List reasons for your opinion.

We wrote the opinion that captains and sailors have the most important job of testing things. We can use details about this job to support that opinion. They:

- use products in the real world
- check different features on ships
- help designers make new products even better

We can write a paragraph by sharing our opinion and then our reasons. For example, this paragraph starts with the opinion about captains and sailors. Then, complete sentences explain each reason.

Captains and sailors have the most important job of testing things. Captains and sailors use products in the real world. A captain might test a ship's speed and safety features. Feedback from captains and sailors helps designers create better products in the future.

Use this paragraph to find 3 details supporting the opinion that benefits managers have the best job.

Benefits managers mostly work at large companies, and they handle employee benefits programs. These programs include health insurance, retirement plans, and paid time off. The benefits manager makes sure workers get the help they need to stay healthy and feel supported at work. People that build things earn great benefits, and it takes a thoughtful and caring staff to manage those benefits. These professionals also explain how benefits work and answer questions employees might have.

Reason 1: _____

Reason 2: _____

Reason 3: _____

Use these details to complete a paragraph on the next page that persuades readers about benefits managers.

I think benefits managers have the best job. _____

Circle the job you would most like to have. Then, write a persuasive paragraph to explain your opinion. Use details about each job to support your opinion.

captain benefits manager teacher

Check your paragraphs with the writing checklist when you finish.

- Every sentence starts with a CAPITAL letter.
- Every sentence has a noun and a verb.
- Every sentence ends with punctuation.
- A topic sentence introduces every paragraph.
- Supporting details explain the main idea.
- A conclusion sentence restates the main idea.