

Boost Free Lessons - Year 10 English

Lesson 17: Persuasive Text: Plan, Draft, Refine

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Your task: Your local council is considering a curfew that would close all public skate parks and courts at 7 pm.

Write a persuasive response of about 450 to 550 words arguing **for** or **against** the proposal.
Your audience is the council.

You will be assessed on your thesis, the strength and relevance of your evidence, your handling of the counter-argument, and the coherence of your structure.

Worked Example 1

The three stages: plan, draft, refine

1. **Plan.** Choose your position and write your thesis before anything else. If you cannot state it in one sentence, you do not have one yet.
2. **Plan.** Decide your two strongest reasons, and find evidence for each. Weak evidence is worse than no evidence, because it invites attack.
3. **Draft.** One PEEL paragraph per reason. Do not stop to polish sentences; a draft exists to be changed.
4. **Refine.** Read for one thing at a time. First: does every paragraph make one point? Second: is every claim supported? Third: does each paragraph link to the last?
5. **Refine.** Finally, check modality. Any claim stronger than your evidence supports should be lowered before a reader finds it.

Plan the thesis, draft without polishing, then refine in separate passes.

Remember: **Plan** the thesis first, **draft** without polishing, then **refine** in separate passes: one point per paragraph, then evidence, then links, then modality.



Question 1: Plan your response before you begin writing.

1. My position, in one sentence

2. My thesis, naming my two reasons

3. Reason one, and the evidence I will use

4. Reason two, and the evidence I will use

5. The strongest counter-argument, and my refutation

6. Exactly what I am asking the council to do



Question 2: Write your persuasive response below. Continue on the next page.

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Continue your response here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



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Model Response and Self-Check: Persuasive Text: Plan, Draft, Refine**Model Response**

The proposed 7 pm curfew should not proceed, because it would remove the only supervised public space available to young people after school hours, and because the evidence connecting these facilities to the disturbances cited does not support the measure.

The skate park is the only lit public facility in the area open after dark. Council's own 2023 recreation audit recorded an average of 61 users between 5 pm and 8 pm on weekdays, with a peak after 6.30. Those users are not choosing between the park and home; they are choosing between a lit, overlooked space and an unlit one. Closing the facility does not remove the activity. It relocates it somewhere nobody can see, which is the outcome the curfew is intended to prevent.

The evidence linking the park to the reported disturbances is also weaker than the proposal assumes. The eleven complaints cited in the report span fourteen months, and seven originate from a single address. That does not mean the complaints are invalid, and residents are entitled to raise them. But eleven complaints across more than a year is not a pattern that justifies closing a facility used sixty times a day.

The strongest argument for the curfew is noise, and it is a real one. Sound carries further after dark, and residents adjacent to the park have less recourse than those elsewhere. I do not think that concern should be dismissed. But the response should match the problem. A noise complaint is answered by acoustic screening along the eastern fence, which the same audit costed at \$18 000. A curfew answers it by removing sixty users to solve a problem reported by one address.

I would ask the council to defer the curfew for one season and fund the screening instead. If complaints continue at the same rate afterwards, the curfew can be revisited with evidence that the cheaper option has already been tried.

Check your own response

1. I have chosen one position and argued it consistently.
2. My thesis states my position and names my reasons.
3. Each body paragraph makes one Point, with Evidence and Explanation.
4. My evidence is specific and relevant to the claim.
5. I have acknowledged the strongest counter-argument.
6. I have refuted it rather than dismissing it.
7. My modality matches the strength of my evidence.
8. I finish by asking for something specific and achievable.
9. My language suits a formal audience.
10. I have checked my spelling and punctuation.

