

Boost Free Lessons - Year 7 English

Lesson 20: Persuasive Writing Task

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Your task: Your school is considering replacing all written homework with twenty minutes of reading each night. Write a persuasive response of about 400 to 500 words arguing **for** or **against** this proposal.

Your audience is the school principal. You will be assessed on your thesis, the strength of your reasons and evidence, and your control of persuasive language.

Worked Example 1

Planning before you write: how would you plan a response to this task?

1. Choose your **position** first and commit to it. A response that argues both ways persuades nobody.
2. Write your **thesis** as one sentence stating the position and signalling two or three reasons.
3. Plan one paragraph per reason using **Point**, **Evidence**, **Explanation**, **Link**.
4. Plan a paragraph acknowledging the **other side**, then answering it. This makes you sound fair, not weak.
5. Match your language to your audience. Writing to a principal means measured, formal language, not slang or shouting.

Plan first: position, thesis, one paragraph per reason, a counter-argument, then a call to action.

Remember: Choose your position and commit to it. Support every reason with **evidence**, answer the strongest argument against you, and match your language to your **audience**.



Question 1: Plan your response before you begin writing.

1. My position (for or against)

2. My thesis statement, in one sentence

3. Reason one, and my evidence

4. Reason two, and my evidence

5. The strongest argument against me, and my answer to it

6. What I want the principal to do



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

[illegible]

Continue your persuasive 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 Writing Task**Model Response**

Replacing written homework with twenty minutes of nightly reading would be the single most useful change our school could make this year. Reading builds the vocabulary that every subject depends on, and it is far more likely to be completed honestly than the worksheets it would replace.

Reading improves performance across the whole curriculum, not only in English. Students who read widely meet thousands of words that never appear in ordinary conversation, and those words are exactly the ones that appear in science questions and history sources. A worksheet practises one skill for one subject. Twenty minutes of reading quietly improves every subject at once, which makes it a far better use of the same time.

Reading is also more likely to be done properly. Written homework can be copied in five minutes before class, and both students and teachers know it. Reading cannot be faked in the same way, because a student who has not read has nothing to say about the book. Setting work that is actually completed is more valuable than setting more work that is not.

Some will argue that reading cannot be marked, and that a school needs evidence students are working. This is a fair concern. But evidence does not have to mean a collected worksheet. A short reading journal, or two minutes of discussion at the start of a lesson, would show a teacher far more about a student's understanding than a page of answers copied at the gate.

We are not asking for less work. We are asking for work that does more. Twenty minutes a night, every night, would build the one skill that carries into every classroom and every year that follows. I would ask you to trial it for a single block with one year group, and to let the results decide the rest.

Check your own response

1. I have chosen one position and argued it consistently.
2. My thesis states my position and signals my reasons.
3. Each paragraph has a clear Point, Evidence, Explanation and Link.
4. My reasons rest on evidence, not just on opinion.
5. I have acknowledged an argument against me and answered it.
6. My language suits my audience, and is formal rather than casual.
7. I have used at least one persuasive technique deliberately.
8. I finish by asking for something specific.
9. I have checked my spelling and punctuation.

