

## Persuasive Writing Scaffold

*“The purpose of persuasive writing is to persuade a reader to a point of view on an issue. Persuasive writing may express an opinion, discuss, analyse and evaluate an issue. It may also entertain and inform.” – NAPLAN*

### Introduction:

State a position ‘for’ or ‘against’ a topic. List three good reasons why you take this position. More sophisticated responses will acknowledge and refute the opposition argument.

**Audience:** You are writing to persuade someone to share your position. You do not need to write in first person, but you do need to write with conviction:

- It’s farcical to suggest...
- To think otherwise is delusional.
- The evidence is irrefutable.
- Every counter argument is quickly negated by evidence to the contrary.
- Why would anyone even entertain the idea?
- Recent events tell a very different story.
- The evidence speaks for itself
- Evidently...
- Conclusively...
- Indubitably...
- Undoubtedly...

First point:

Allocate a paragraph to each argument listed in the introduction. A topic sentence should state your first point. Elaborate on the point throughout the paragraph and use anecdotal evidence to build a persuasive argument.

**Ideas:** Ensure your topic sentence introduces an idea relevant to the topic. Your topic sentence should be followed by an explanation of your position i.e. evidence to support your position. Evidence can be cultural, anecdotal, or statistical. Provide very specific examples to support your topic sentence.

**Vocabulary:** Stronger responses will employ a more sophisticated vocabulary and precise words i.e. words specific to the subject just like 'Facebook', 'Instagram' and 'selfie' are terms specific to social media discussions.

Second point:

Your second topic sentence should emerge from the last paragraph.

**Cohesion:** Develop ideas throughout the entire response by finding links from one paragraph to the next.

**Connectives:** therefore, consequently, also, similarly, consequently, while, indeed, however, nevertheless, whereas, finally...

**Sentence structure:** Stronger responses will use a range of simple, compound and complex sentences to build an argument.

Third point:

Build your argument with an additional point. Again, your topic sentence should come from the three points outlined in your introduction.

**Punctuation:** Use capital letters to start sentences, use full stops to end sentences. Stronger responses will use various punctuation marks like semi colons, colons, question marks and brackets. Use capital letters for names and titles. Write 'and' out in full.

Fourth point:

Sophisticated responses will refute a counter argument. Your topic sentence for this paragraph should both introduce the opposition point and explain why it is invalid.

**Spelling:** Stronger responses will use at least 10 difficult words and five challenging words OR 15 difficult words.

Refer to the NAPLAN spelling lists to develop your spelling of difficult and challenging words.

Conclusion:

Conclude your response by restating with persuasive language your position on the topic. Summarise your key arguments.

**Text structure:** The main structural components of a persuasive text are the introduction, development of argument (body paragraphs) and conclusion.