

Minilesson Statements for Persuasive Writing

Minilessons for Generating Ideas in Your Writer's Notebook

- Writers make lists of things they know and care about.
 1. Best and Worst Lists (Ex Best and Worst Electronics)
 2. "I think" Lists (Ex I think things at the store should be cheaper. ; I think there should be fewer cars and more bicycles."
 3. "We should..." Lists. Ex - We should have a computer lab.
 4. "No more...." Lists Ex - No more drugs in stores.
 5. Writers pick an issue and make a T-chart for reasons for and reasons against the issue.
Ex. Cheaper stuff in stores

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Buy more things	Store would go out of business
Need less allowance	Store would have to fire people
More people would shop there	
 6. Writers pick one thing they know the most about and truly care about. They select their position (Yes or No) and then select their 3 best reasons to support their position. They then write this as a strong position statement (see minilessons below) for the whole topic. After that, they write each reason and add "because" for each one. **These are the 3 paragraphs you will crack open (See Developing Your Position Minilessons below). Ex - I would really like to see fewer cars on the streets because the world is being damaged by the bad air that comes from cars."

Minilessons for Introducing Your Stand - Sway Your Reader from the Beginning

- Writers begin persuasive pieces in a way that helps the reader think about their stand on a topic or issue.
 1. Writers make a strong statement about their stand. Ex - All kids deserve a cell phone so they don't have to be terrified of not being able to call for help when they need it..
 2. Writers let the reader know they plan to convince him/her to think as the writer thinks. Ex. - Every kid deserves to have a dog. I'm going to give you all the reasons why you should definitely get a dog for your next pet.
 3. Writers ask a question that helps the reader think about the topic. Ex - Did you know that you may not be getting some of the things you want or need because your parents have to pay so much for gasoline?
 4. Writers begin with a personal, emotional fact that makes the reader care about taking a stand on a topic.. Ex - Once I was lost for an hour at the mall because I didn't have a cell phone to let my mom know where I was. I was a nervous wreck for weeks, and it could have been prevented if I had just had a cell phone!.

Minilessons for Developing Your Position - Give Strong Reasons and Explain Each Reason

- Writers use persuasive words throughout their paper. Ex. - Convince, strongly advise, believe, implore, agree, support
 - Writers use words that build up the positive side if they want the reader to be for the issue. Ex - perfect, satisfying, most adorable
 - Writers use words that are negative if they want the reader to be against the issue. Ex - horrible, cruel, wrong, unfair, burden
 - Writers use their three strongest arguments or reasons to build their case. Each reason is a separate paragraph where the reason is cracked open:
 1. Writers share their thoughts, feelings, or personal experiences. Ex. Taking the time to become an excellent skateboarder is definitely worth the time you'll spend practicing!
 2. Writers use comparisons that help the reader think about the value (if they're for something) or lack of value (if they're against something) of the topic. Being forced to do too much homework is like putting a kid in a deep, dark prison.
 3. Writers use comparisons (metaphors or similies) to draw the reader's attention to a particular point the writer wants to make. Ex - When a kid has been doing homework for over an hour, his/her eyes start to look glassy like a dead animal's.
 4. Writers use a quotation from a person or other resource. Ex. The box of the Tony Hawks videogame states, "You play it! You live it!" Everyone deserves to live this excellent game.
 5. Writers give as much information as possible to support their position. They leave out the other side except in one little place in the middle of the paper.
 6. The writer nods to the other side for just a sentence or two and then immediately switches back to their side and STAYS THERE! Ex - Some people believe school uniforms help all kids feel equal because they are dressed equally. However, I am positive this is not true. Forcing kids to dress the same makes them look like prisoners. And, just like prisoners, it makes the kids want to escape the school system.
 7. Writers may tell a short "One time" story to help the reader understand why their belief is important.. These stories, called anecdotes, should be very short - just a few sentences. Ex. My mother told me over and over not to sit so close to the TV, but I just ignored her. After I had been sitting too close to the TV for several years, I had to get glasses. I understand now why listening to your parents advise is so very important.
 8. Writers issue a plea to the reader so that the reader knows supporting their stand is really important. Ex - Please! Please! I beg you not to make your child wear hideous school uniforms!
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Minilessons for Concluding Persuasive Writing - Convincing Your Reader One Last Time

- Writers create an ending that leaves the reader thinking about the importance of their stand on the topic.
 1. Writers make a prediction so the reader thinks about the importance of the stand on their own lives. Ex - It is easy for you to get lost at the mall. If you don't immediately go and beg your parents for a cell phone, you might be sorry the next time you go to the mall.
 2. Writers tell why their belief is important. Ex - Skateboarding is the sport all kids adore. You will be amazed at how much more popular you will be once you take up this enjoyable sport!
 3. Writers help the reader imagine taking the stand in his/her life. Ex You will be so very proud of yourself for refusing to buy a Coke from a business that is charging more than \$.75 for it! Encourage all your friends to do the same thing and soon prices will go down.
 4. Writers ask a question that leaves the reader thinking about the topic. Ex. Wouldn't you like to come home from school every day knowing your adorable new puppy is waiting to play with you?
 5. Writers end with a recommendation to try out a product. Ex - I encourage you to try the Tony Hawks game just one time. When you do, you'll love it as much as I do. It's the best!
 6. Writers circle back to the lead and state their position one last time.. Ex - Just remember - Say NO to school uniforms.

Revision Minilessons

- Writers remove details that might cause the reader to support the other side of the issue. **This is not lying! Persuasive writers are supposed to leave out information that does not support their positions.
- Writers vary sentence beginnings to keep the reader's interest. Ex - "To prevent this..." ; "Before you make your decision..."
- Writers check to see if they have used too many short sentences. They put some of these together that are close in time or in meaning. Ex - The Wii is a game every kid needs. The controls are easy to hold. The controls are easy to use. ... Change to "The Wii is a game very kid needs. The controls are easy to hold and use."
- Writers use strong verbs to help the reader feel something that might influence their decision. Ex - Stop butchering innocent dogs! Don't take them to the dog pound.
- If facts or statistics are included, writers list their resources at the end of the paper so the reader will know these are really facts and not opinions.
- Ex. Resources
 - (1) I read the book Dogs in Danger by Jackson Reynolds.
 - (2) I went online to <http://www.canismajor.com/>.html
 - (3) I used personal information because I once had to take an animal to the dog pound.