

Persuasive Writing

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Article Title	Writer's Opinion	Writer's Audience <i>The writer is trying to convince. . . .</i>	Writer's Purpose <i>. . . to agree to. . .</i>

I have opinions too!

Other Ideas or Opinions for Persuasive Writing

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<i>'Parties Are Simply A Waste!'</i>	Classroom parties are not important.	<i>Adults Principal Parents</i>	End classroom parties during the school day
<i>'Why Not Air Dry?'</i>	Many public restrooms Have installed hand dryers.	Adults Students?	Our school should invest in hand dryers.
<i>'Three Cheers For Audio Books'</i>	Audio books are not 'real reading'.	Adults Students?	Audio books are worthwhile and meaningful reading.
<p><i>I have opinions too!</i></p> <p>Other Ideas or Opinions for Persuasive Writing</p>			

Parties Are Simply A Waste!

I have never understood the importance of parties in the classroom. As a mother of two school age children, I do believe that the public schools should no longer allow classroom parties during the school day.

Time is precious to the students in school today. Our school year is already too short. Teachers can barely get all the basics of the curriculum into the required instructional minutes of the day. Certainly, there is no time for the impractical or silly. School time is best spent focusing on the primary goal----learning.

And what about food? For health and safety reasons, schools often require that foods for these celebrations be purchased from a store. This is a real difficulty for many families. Cookies for 30 students, plus drinks and napkins can add up to what it costs a family to eat a meal at home. The cost of a classroom party is easily a problem for many people, particularly in these difficult economic times. And we all know that our children consume enough sugar and junk food without the school promoting such unhealthy choices.

All the waste that a party can create is overwhelming! I remember those birthday parties when I would just buy the disposable plates, cups, silverware and napkins so that I didn't need to do any clean up! But even squeezing and pushing, I barely managed to fit all the party time rubbish into the trashcan. Multiply this by an average school of 16 classrooms and over 400 students. Such unnecessary waste only adds to the problem of our ever-growing landfills.

I am not sure when our public schools decided that classroom parties needed to become a part of the school calendar, but I do not see the importance. Children are watching adults all hours of the day and looking up to these adults for guidance. Showing an interest in homework and volunteering in classrooms should be our PTA responsibility, not preparing for parties. Therefore, I do believe schools should ban classroom celebrations. Our tax dollars must be focused on the learning of our children.

Why Not Air Dry?

Instead of paper towels, many public restrooms have installed hot-air hand dryers. I think our school would benefit by investing in automatic motion-sensing hand dryers.

First of all, this automatic hand dryer is very sanitary. Instead of pulling on a lever that has been touched by a large number of students, users can just stick their hands under the air dryer. No germs can get on them because there is nothing to touch. Just think how the attendance rate would improve. Kids wouldn't get sick from the germ-infested paper towel dispensers we now use at our school.

In addition, if we buy this automatic hand dryer, we can save the school budget and trees. I have noticed that there is a terrible waste of these paper towels. Students continuously pull on the level, dispensing towels that they do not really need. How annoying to find the dispenser empty. Our custodian is called several times a day to bring in bundles of replacements, just because some kids are wasteful.

Finally, our bathroom is a paper towel mess! There are always piles of paper towels on the floor. Sometimes the extras fall from the dispenser unused. Many times kids bunch their used towel into a ball and aim for a 'basket'. But if they miss the target, the paper ball stays on the floor. Sometimes the towels are even tossed to ceiling like spitballs.

Saving money, keeping kids healthy, and our helping our school stay clean are good reasons for the hand dryers. Let's install them as soon as possible!

Three Cheers For Audio Books!

A lot of people don't like audio books. The thought of enjoying a cup of cocoa, sitting and holding a new book in their hands is such a wonderful experience. As a life-long book worm I understand that. But, I've also heard people say audio books are "*not real reading*." I agree that audio books are not the same experience, but to suggest that they are *less valuable* annoys me. I believe audio books are a worthwhile and meaningful reading experience.

The main advantage with audio books is the gift of time. Audio books are the multi-tasker's dream. Often I am unable to take the time to sit down and read. Audio books make it possible to read while doing almost anything. While completing household chores, knitting, or exercising on the treadmill, I can listen to a good book. I can even 'read' with my eyes closed! No more straining my eyes, I can fit in a wonderful time of peace and enjoyment at any time of the day.

Hearing the words pour musically from a disc is just as thrilling as reading the text. Audio books offer the advantage of being able to experience the rhythm and the tempo of the language. I especially enjoy listening to poetry. When reading *Harry Potter* and *Because of Winn Dixie*, the dialogue fascinated me. I felt I was able to enjoy the proper pronunciation of an unfamiliar dialect, and this increased my understanding and pleasure.

Then there is the pure delight of being read to. One fond memory of our family vacations is listening to a book together as we traveled across the highway. We were all sobbing together at the end of *Where The Red Fern Grows*. My children are now young adults, but we all sigh with pleasure at the memory, and the book remains a family favorite. Listening to authors read their own books is another special experience. It feels like a conversation with a cherished, old friend.

Yes, the smell and feel of a new book will always capture me. But, I've grown to like audio books over the last few years. Both are enjoyable and valuable opportunities for adventure! Readers, I encourage you to try an audio book and please, never reject it as not 'real reading'!