

Name: _____



Introducing a Persuasive Essay

Read this example of a persuasive essay.

Writing Model

Don't Feed the Animals!

Baxter Park is a great park for people to visit. It is also a forest habitat for deer, squirrels, birds, foxes, and raccoons. People often set out food for the animals in hopes of seeing them up close as the animals eat. But feeding the animals causes safety and health problems for the animals and for people, so it must be stopped.

Wild animals that are fed by people lose some of their ability to survive in nature. These animals stop looking for food on their own. They also lose their fear of humans and start to approach people and cars. This behavior can be dangerous for the animals and park visitors.

The food that people feed the animals can also cause harm. People usually set out junk food, such as white bread, chips, and even cookies. Those foods do not have the nutrients that animals need for good health. And, because it is easy for the animals to fill up on the food that people give them instead of searching for their own food, the animals can easily become sick.

People who feed wild animals might believe that it is a way to learn about, observe, or help those animals. But there are already better ways to do this. Park rangers run educational programs and lead nature hikes for people who want to learn more about local wildlife. The classes and hikes are informative and do not cause harm to animals or visitors.

People are well-meaning when they set out food for wild animals. But for the sake of the animals, and for the safety of visitors, park officials should take action to prevent people from feeding wild animals at Baxter Park.

Writer's Purpose: _____

Name: _____

Writing an Opinion Statement

Read each topic and opinion statement. Rewrite the opinion statement so it introduces the topic and takes a position.

Example

Topic: changing the Whitman Middle School mascot

Opinion statement: Some students want to change our school mascot from the Panthers to the Earthworms, but other students want to keep our mascot.

It would be a big mistake for Whitman Middle School to change its mascot from the Panthers to the Earthworms.

1. **Topic:** offering vegetarian lunches at school

Opinion statement: Some vegetarian meals are lower in fat and calories than meals that include meat.

2. **Topic:** deciding which to repair first—the city’s swimming pool or its soccer field

Opinion statement: It would be good if the city repaired its soccer field first.

3. **Topic:** sixth graders wearing makeup to school

Opinion statement: Even though I’m only in sixth grade, I should be able to decide what I can or cannot do.

4. **Topic:** special programs that give laptop computers to students

Opinion statement: Laptops are becoming more popular in schools.

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Including Reasons and Details

Read each opinion statement. Then write a reason that supports the opinion.
Add details that support the reason.

Example

Opinion statement: The United States should expand its space program.

Reason: The space program leads to many advances in technology.

Details: Satellite technology came out of the space program.

Satellites help us predict the weather.

1. **Opinion statement:** Gym classes should include hiking in the nearby forest.

Reason: _____

Details: _____

2. **Opinion statement:** Professional athletes should not earn more money than other professionals earn.

Reason: _____

Details: _____

3. **Opinion statement:** All middle schools should have bully-prevention programs.

Reason: _____

Details: _____

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Writing an Opposing Argument and a Response

Read each opinion statement. Write a possible argument against that opinion, and then write a response to that argument.

1. **Opinion:** Tower Middle School should add in-line skating to its P.E. activities.

Reason against: _____

Response: _____

2. **Opinion:** Students should be allowed to listen to MP3 players during study time.

Reason against: _____

Response: _____

3. **Opinion:** The River Falls Theater should show only kids' movies.

Reason against: _____

Response: _____

4. **Opinion:** Students in middle school need morning and afternoon recess.

Reason against: _____

Response: _____

5. **Opinion:** The local animal shelter should bring animals to school once a month.

Reason against: _____

Response: _____
