[Persuasive Essay/Speech Topics](http://www.ereadingworksheets.com/writing/persuasive-essay-topics/)

1. Should students be allowed to have cell phones in elementary and high schools?
2. Should students have to wear uniforms?
3. Should college athletes be paid for playing?
4. Should the voting age be lowered to thirteen?
5. Should students be paid for having good grades?
6. Should not wearing a seat-belt be illegal?
7. Should student’s textbooks be replaced by notebook computers?
8. Should schools raise money by selling candy and sugary soft drinks to students?
9. Should students’ grades in gym affect their grade point averages?
10. Should girls be allowed to play on boys sports teams?
11. Should teens be able to buy violent video games?
12. Should boys and girls be in separate classes?
13. Should schools offer fast food options like McDonald’s or Taco Bell?
14. Should smoking be allowed at parks and other outdoor public venues?
15. Should people be allowed to keep exotic animals like chimpanzees or tigers?
16. Should people be allowed to keep pit-bull dogs?
17. Should there be an law that requires people to recycle?
18. Should the government increase spending on the space program?
19. Should students who commit cyber-bullying be suspended from school?
20. Should students be allowed to eat during class?
21. Should more be done to protect and preserve endangered animals?
22. Should schools start later in the morning?
23. Should Puerto Rico become a state?
24. Should America convert to the metric system?
25. Should high school students have to complete community service hours to graduate?
26. Should teens over 13 years be allowed into R rated movies?
27. Should state tests be given in other languages for ESL students?
28. Should scientists be allowed to test products intended for human use on animals?
29. Should unhealthy fast food products be sold with a warning label?
30. Should everyone under the age of 17 have a 9:00 PM curfew?
31. Should students be allowed to drop out before they turn 18 years old?
32. Should alcohol manufacturers be allowed to advertise on television?
33. Should students as young as fourteen be allowed to hold jobs?
34. Should students be given homework?

THERE ARE MANY MANY more…if you think of one that you would like to research, check with me!

**Persuasive Essay Writing Project**

For this assignment, you will write a persuasive essay and present it to the class. A persuasive paper is presented to encourage audience members to believe something that you want to prove is true, to change a belief that they currently have, or to take action on a policy or behavior. You must convince your audience using supporting facts and evidence from sources to back up your own opinions.

**Words you need to know:**

*Argument/Claim:* The side you are choosing to support

*Supporting Reason:* Reason that you think your argument is correct

*Evidence:* Facts, data or information that support your reason

*Counterclaim:* An argument against (for the other side) of your claim.

**Process:**

Step 1: Choose a topic that you feel strongly about. Choose one side of the

 argument. Write a creative title for your piece.

Step 2: Using the organizer, begin brainstorming three strong reasons to support

 your claim. Think of a counterclaim that someone might challenge your

 argument with.

Step 3: Do research to find facts/data/information to support your reasons and

 disprove a counterclaim. Write down the websites/resources you used to

 complete your research.

Step 4: Brainstorm an interesting way to begin your essay.

Step 5: Write a rough draft/Type it on the computer. (6 paragraphs: introduction,

 Reason 1, Reason 2, Reason 3, Counterclaim, Conclusion)

Step 6: Read it aloud to another student. Listen to their suggestions.

Step 7: Revise and make changes to make your essay stronger.

Step 8: Print a final copy and present your essay in class.

**Grading Rubric:**

\_\_\_/10 Introduction (hook, strongly worded, clear, lists reasons)

\_\_\_/10 Reason #1 (strong, clear, supported by evidence)

\_\_\_/10 Reason #2 (strong, clear, supported by evidence)

\_\_\_/10 Reason #3 (strong, clear, supported by evidence)

\_\_\_/10 Counterclaim (logical, refuted strongly with evidence)

\_\_\_/10 Conclusion (summarizes argument & reasons, strong last sentence)

\_\_\_/10 Neatly typed with few grammar/spelling mistakes.

\_\_\_/10 Essay turned in on time

\_\_\_/ 20 Essay shows quality writing and is grade level appropriate