

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 7 AND 8 WRITING/HOMEWORK 12**NAME (FIRST AND LAST):**_____ **GRADE:**_____**Persuasive Writing
Introductory Paragraph Review**

Directions: Read the introductory paragraphs. Based on the preview of main points, determine what the next paragraphs will be about. Here you only need to write topic sentences for each of the body paragraphs that are presented as thesis statements in each introductory paragraph. Follow the rules for topic sentences discussed in class.

1. The other day when I was walking to school, I saw a street cleaner sit in the truck while his partner did all of the work. Both of those people were getting paid. People need to take street cleaning more seriously. Street cleaning is important because it decreases the pollution, it gives our city a better look, and it increases employment.

What will the first body paragraph be about?

What will the second body paragraph be about?

What will the third body paragraph be about?

2. Have you ever really needed to go somewhere and did not have transportation? People under the age of 14 should be able to drive. They should be able to drive because they might have woken up late and no one is home. Another reason is that on winter days it might be so cold that people could get bad frost bites. And also, they would be able to help with errands and picking up brothers and sisters.

What will the first body paragraph be about?

What will the second body paragraph be about?

What will the third body paragraph be about?

3. Should students get a reward if they stay out of trouble and do well in school? They should give us a football team because we've had good behavior all year since school started. It would keep us out of trouble and we have many talented athletes in football at our school.

What will the first body paragraph be about?

What will the second body paragraph be about?

What will the third body paragraph be about?

4. Do students learn more when they are hungry? I don't think so. We should have a vending machine at our school because people get hungry in the middle of the day, it would raise money for sports and clubs, and students would learn more.

What will the first body paragraph be about?

What will the second body paragraph be about?

What will the third body paragraph be about?

Misplaced modifiers are words, phrases, or clauses that are separated from the word they modify. Misplacement of adverbs can sometimes change the meaning of a sentence. Watch out for the words *only*, *just*, *merely*, *nearly*, and *almost*. Please choose the correct versions of the following sentences.

Directions: Revise the following sentences to correct misplaced modifiers.

1. The tall boy led the parade with red hair.

2. My brother just listens to one radio station.

3. After dancing solo on stage, the audience applauded Anna's performance.

4. The new student will take the corner seat wearing the muscle shirt.

5. Unfortunately, I can only take three students to the concert.

6. Kathy donated a television to the Youth Center that she no longer used.

7. The man told me all about his childhood in the seat next to me.

8. The audience watched the strange performers with open mouths.

9. The speaker bellowed into the megaphone wearing a hard hat.

10. I can't believe we almost ate the whole pint of ice cream.

What will be the topic of your final essay? Write the thesis statement here:

Identifying Supporting Details

Supporting details are the facts and ideas that explain or prove the topic sentence or main idea. Without strong and vivid supporting details, it hardly matters what a great topic sentence a writer has created for a paragraph. It's the supporting details, in the form of facts, descriptions, and examples that back up the claim made in that sentence. The supporting details are important enough that you could think of them as the real meat of any paragraph.

Main Idea and Supporting Details Practice Exercises

A Musical Mouse

Read the selection, and then circle the answer to the questions that follow.

- (1) There are many different kinds of mice. Some are good swimmers; others like to swing from trees by their tails. And one kind, the white-footed mouse, is not only a good swimmer and tree climber, but it's also quite musical!
- (2) This minute, furry creature's body is about 8 inches (20 cm) long, with a tail of another 3 inches (7.5 cm). It weighs only about 0.8 ounces (23 g). It's been around North America for a long time; scientists have found 40- million-year-old fossils of the tiny creature's ancestors!
- (3) Some people call the white-footed mouse the "wood mouse" because it lives in so many wooded areas throughout North America. Other people call the white-footed mouse the "deer mouse." One reason is that its fur is the same colors as a deer's—soft brown on its back; white on its underside. Another reason is that the mice carry deer ticks that spread Lyme disease.
- (4) The whitefoot makes its nest almost anywhere. It likes a home that is warm and dry, like a hollow tree or empty bird's nest. But most of the time the whitefoot runs along the ground looking for food. It eats seeds, nuts, leaves, bark, and insects. It sleeps by day and looks for food at night—its long whiskers and big ears help it find its way in the dark.
- (5) Does the whitefoot really make music? In a way, it does because it often makes a humming sound. And it taps its little paws very fast on a dead leaf or hollow log to make a buzzing, drumming sound! Scientists aren't sure why the mouse is a drummer; it just is!
- (6) So the next time you're in the woods, walk quietly. There might be a white-footed mouse nearby, and you wouldn't want to interrupt a mouse in the middle of its song . . . would you?

1. What is the main idea of this selection?
 - a. Deer are brown and white.
 - b. The white-footed mouse taps its paws in a drumming sound.
 - c. The woods of North America are full of mice.
 - d. Scientists study the habits of mice.
2. Which is a supporting detail for that main idea?
 - a. The white-footed mouse is also known as the wood mouse.
 - b. The deer mouse may carry ticks that transmit a disease.
 - c. The mouse taps on a dead leaf or hollow log.
 - d. The white-footed mouse isn't very big.
3. Which would make the best substitute title for this selection?
 - a. "How to Build a Better Mousetrap" b. "Concert in the Woods"
 - c. "Caution: Lyme Disease Ahead!" d. "All about Rodents"
4. What is the main idea of paragraph 2?
 - a. The white-footed mouse lives in Canada.
 - b. The white-footed mouse is also called the wood or deer mouse.
 - c. The white-footed mouse hums. d. The white-footed mouse is very small.
5. Which detail in paragraph 2 is interesting, but not needed to find the main idea of that paragraph?
 - a. Its tail is 3 inches (7.5 cm) long.
 - b. Scientists found 40-million-year-old fossils of its ancestors.
 - c. It weighs 0.8 ounces (23 g). d. Its body is about 8 inches (20 cm) long.

Edit the following sentences to correct errors in the use of numbers. If a sentence is correct, write “correct” after it.

- a. The carpenters located 3 maple timbers, 21 sheets of cherry, and 10 oblongs of polished ebony for the theater set.
- b. The program’s cost is well over one billion dollars.
- c. The score was tied at 5–5 when the momentum shifted and car-ried the Standards to a decisive 12–5 win.
- d. 8 students in the class had been labeled “learning disabled.”
- e. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, had fifty-eight thousand one hundred thirty-two names inscribed on it when it was dedicated in 1982.
1. One of my favorite scenes in Shakespeare is the property division scene in act 1 of King Lear.
2. The botany lecture will begin at precisely 3:30 p.m.
3. 50 percent of the gamers who play The Simsare female.
4. In two thousand and four, Fox TV’s American Idolearned more ad-vertising dollars than any other reality show.
5. On a normal day, I spend at least 4 to 5 hours surfing the Internet.

Finally, find some statistics or facts based on the essay topic that you have chosen. If you have not chosen a topic yet, please e-mail me, so that I can approve your topic.

Make sure the facts you find are from a website that has an author

1. _____

 _____ (Author’s Name: _____)

2. _____

 _____ (Author’s Name: _____)

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Please bring this in and be ready for the essay next week. If you need to choose a topic still or have me check over it, email –

mr.heidarbozorg@gmail.com

....THE END