

Governor's Study Partner Program



SPI: 701.3.11

Identify individual writing selections as technical, narrative, persuasive and/or descriptive in mode.

Title: Persuasive Writing

Persuasive writing means trying to convince someone of something.

Persuasive writing contains facts but also wants readers to think the way the writer does.

Questions to determine whether writing is persuasive.

- (1) What are the facts?
- (2) Is it logical or reasonable?
- (3) Does it appeal to your emotions?
- (4) Is the writing trying to persuade you in a certain way?

If you can answer no to two questions it is not persuasive writing.

Decide whether the following selection is persuasive writing. Answer the four questions above to determine.

Basketball

Joining the community basketball team is a worthwhile activity. There are 90 middle school students that play on several teams. It is a chance to meet kids you don't know as well as play against friends from your own school. My mom and dad enjoy watching the games. We usually have an activity planned after the game and many times we are joined by other members of my team. Kids at school look up to basketball players that make you feel good. The exercise makes you healthy and strong. Playing community basketball is an exciting way to spend the cold, winter Saturdays.

Answer the four questions about the paragraph below. (Remember if you answer no to two questions the selection is not persuasive writing.)

Trains

Trains arrived in the United States in the middle 1800s. People did not accept them initially but after ten years they were widely used. Traveling thousands of miles in only days had never been possible before trains. Being able to ship freight across the country was appreciated especially by store owners in the Midwest. The use of automobiles greatly impacted train travel. No longer were people traveling on trains as they had in the past. Most people will never know what it's like to see our country by rail as they travel on a train.

Sum it up!

Persuasive writing or speaking attempts to convince others to accept a position or an issue of concern to the writer. Remember if you answer no to two questions the selection is not a persuasive writing.