

Your next assignment involves explaining your point of view and having to defend against criticisms of that viewpoint. **To do that, you'll need to develop a persuasive writing tone.**

Writing persuasively is all about word choice. The message doesn't have to differ but just a few words can make the tone more or less convincing.

To practice this, we did an activity where I posed a number of controversial questions to the class and everyone had to develop as persuasive and strong a response to the question as possible. When we started out, the persuasive tone was weak, **but as we reviewed the student examples and identified the ones that were stronger and what made them more confident sounding, the examples given improved dramatically.**

See if you agree – the persuasive tone in these sentences improves towards the end of the samples.

Student Examples:

Prompt: Are the Saskatchewan Roughriders still the best team in the CFL?

The Riders are the best are still the best in the CFL. They have a completely new, young and strong team that has fresher skills and ideas than all the other old teams. Many of the players are very skilled young guys from the U.S that have amazing skills.

Due to lack of better players, the roughriders are no longer the strongest team in the league. In past years they were the dream team until they started to let go of the good players. The Saskatchewan roughriders are not the strongest team in the league

(Against) no I don't think they r because they suck and never win. They aren't constantly winning ever like other teams are.

Against- the riders have a new coach and a lot of new players and it will take some time to adjust to these changes. I think they will get close in the playoff season to being the best but will not pull it off this year

They aren't the best team yet because they haven't played any games yet

The roughriders are just a football team and to me I don't care if they are good or not like every other sport or game just another thing for people to watch or do.

Yes, to me they are the best, so they had a bad year. Everyone was hurt or out! And in the past few years they were in the gray cup and even won one proving just how good they are, and with everyone back I see no reason for them not to win and be the best.

I am for the roughriders because I don't follow football or watch it ever, but in 2007 I watched them win the grey cup.

(Against) I don't watch sports but the rest of you talk about it. No in my opinion they aren't. Best we sucked this year. We lost a lot of games and only won a few.

No they suck, well at least the last few years for sure but they are still Sask's only and best CFL team.

The roughriders are no longer the best team in the league. They had a time to shine and that was the year 2013 but now they need to work on rebuilding to become that team again.

Prompt #2: Should people be punished for illegally downloading music and movies?

Downloading movies and music should not be considered illegal. We should be more concerned about more illegal things like drugs and illegal weapons than something as little as downloading stuff for free.

I think as long as the person isn't charging for people to watch the free stuff they should not be punished and even if people are they'll still do it and no one really gets punished for it now

Against- I don't think people should be punished but mostly because I do it. There are many apps available that allow you to do this

No I don't think people should be punished for illegally downloading music and movies. There are a number of apps and sites that allow you to do so. If downloading this content is so illegal then sites and apps would not be accessible to people. Nobody is being harmed by this activity and I don't see how people could police this "issue" anyways.

No that would be stupid. Realistically the music apps just take YouTube videos and make it so u don't have to wait for it too load. I think that's stupid and would suck for the poor people. Who like music but can't afford it

For, only if they are caught

For, there are apps for music off of the app store that are free that provide free music and radio,
No because there are apps for free

Against- no they should not be punished, music is too overpriced anyway and not everyone can afford to buy iTunes cards all the time. Anyways, not everyone does it and still MANY people buy from iTunes. Also, Netflix is the only reasonably priced site to download/buy/watch movies. No need to spend \$100 on music when you can get it for free.

(Against!) I think it should be okay for people because eventually they will see it anyways and also YouTube will let you listen to music for free also it has some movies on it to I mean if it's something that just came out then yeah punish them but if the movie has already been out and it's on DVD then I think it should be okay.

No it's only illegal if you get caught

Against- if you are downloading music off of the internet illegally, you should not be punished for it. You are not the one who made the app or webpage that lets everyone else get the music. Instead of everyone being so worried about you downloading the music they should be focused on the creator.

Prompt #3: Should smoking be banned in parks?

No because smoking is very big in the world. Too many people smoke and are addicted and to ask for them to stop would be rude. Since smoking cigarettes are not illegal and have been around for a very long time it should not be a big deal. It's not like they are smoking other worse substances that should be done in a private area. But smoking should be allowed. And since some religions use smoking as a ceremony thing it shouldn't be illegal.

I think it's not worth the time because people don't really do it anyways and if they had to do all that work for a law that people don't do or won't get punished for what's the point. They'll do it anyways if they want to and what would even happen if they got caught banned from the park. Ok have fun watching for them all day! :)

Against- I don't think it should be banned because it is an open area. If you banned it people could just walk onto the side walk or somewhere that is not considered the public park and smoke and it would be almost the same as smoking in the park

Smoking in public parks should be banned. Not everyone smokes, and people should not have to be exposed to it if they choose not to. Smoking is not healthy and people should not have to unwillingly breathe in second hand smoke. Public parks are places where people often bring their children and pets to public parks, but allowing smoking at these places exposes more people, especially vulnerable ones like kids

No smoke isn't bad for trees and plants because if you look at how polluted New York is, the plants are greener than they are here because the only thing smoke is bad for is us and its kind too late to stop pollution from happening and people not smoking in a certain area isn't going to change anything

Yes it should be band, these are areas that are frequently visited by families with small children who are more affected by the smoke, and even though they are outside, as areas where smoking is allowed shrinks more and more people will go to the areas where it is allowed to smoke. If these parks don't get bands put on them then you will put children and the cigarette smoke together.

No it shouldn't be banned because you're outside and the smoke goes up and away. As long as people clean up their butts and don't litter it will be all good. Smoking isn't that bad and it's a free country so people should have a little more freedom to do what they want. 🤔

I think yes, it should be banned in parks because it can really bother some people and it does smell really bad. But not only that, it also can really harm people with breathing problems. It's not healthy for anyone, and for the people that don't smoke, they're choosing not to for a reason and they're pretty much being forced to breathe it in. it's diluting the air and is not healthy to breathe in at all.

(For) Yes it should be banned in parks because secondhand smoke can cause cancer also smoking in general isn't good. Smoke in your own house don't bring it into the public we have enough pollution as it is we don't need any more. Also it's just plain disrespectful to the people around you and the park cause I'm betting once your done with your smoke you're going to put it on the ground and let's face it no one likes seeing smokes on the ground.

No people will smoke where are when they want. I don't think laws will stop them.

Yes, smoking should be banned in public parks. The park is an area that is supposed to be family friendly and smoking can bother a lot of people. There are other areas that people can smoke if they need to fill that need of having nicotine. People should not be allowed to smoke in a public park

Prompt #4: Should schools incorporate more blended learning?

I think blended learning is a good thing. Not everyone gets everything at the same time. Some people are stronger at math or stronger in history so it may be easy to them, but it may be hard for others to understand the concepts. That is why blended learning is smart and good for schools, so everyone had a chances at learning all the skills and practicing them at your own pace, you are not just left behind with no understanding of anything in that class.

I'd go with working at my own pace. Some can't work as fast as others or have harder times thinking of work to do so this allows us to work freely and not have to worry about rushing though things

Against- I dislike blended learning. Yes it seems good to allow kids to work at their own pace but many times kids get distracted and fall behind. It also is hard to change from always having a teacher teach you to learning from videos and online assignments. It's easier to engage with a teacher and a class room and improves learning when you can just ask a question whenever you want.

I think the blended learning is an interesting concept, but overall less blended learning would be more ideal in our school. In classes it is more effective when everyone is all at the same spot and you can get more out of class discussions and activity. It's easier to help, and get help from your peers. The idea of working at your own pace should only be implemented in extreme cases. (A student severely struggling needs to be addressed)

I don't really care. It doesn't matter to me at all. Either way I will probably get er done.

Less, only for classes that already have a teacher present in the room. I get more out of it if there is someone there explaining it to me because they could explain it several different ways instead of one like the video would have done

I'm against "in class" blended learning because the teach has to track where every individual student is and it makes more work for the teacher having to teach it 15 times instead of once. If the class is taught as a whole the class can learn from each other and they can help classmates out. I personally learn better when a class is taught with little blended learning and discussion and question are allowed. Blended learning sucks. TEAM WORK!!

No I am not for more blending learning. I don't feel as if it is a good way to learn for everyone, yes it may work for some, but others may have a difficult time learning this way. I know for me, I have a difficult time because I can't just stop the video and ask a question, I have to wait until the teacher is not busy to ask a question and many times that may take a while for them to get to you. Some people have this type of learning style and can pick up easy off a video and others can't work that way and need to stop the lesson when a TEACHER is teaching because that way you can just put your hand up and have your questions answered right away. So yes, I do think the people that can learn this way should have the option to do it. But, if this is a difficult way for you to learn, you should not have to do it.

(Against) No I'm not for blended learning in the school because bot everyone likes learning on a computer and to be honest it's not going to change anything yes some people can work quicker and get good grades but also students who struggle and the teacher wont necessarily know because let's face it we are in school for 7 hours a day no one wants to ask for help and then have a teacher stand over their shoulder trying to explain it. It's just uncomfortable and the teacher's voice on a recording is so boring and would put anyone to sleep faster than piano music.

No I don't like it. For example in one class the grade nines can be very noisy and distracting especially when I am trying to work on something. Maybe in the right environment it can be good but the way I've seen it; it does not seem to work

I think less blended learning. Because everyone is going at their own pace. The teacher is not going to teach everything to every individual, they are going to rely on some sort of technology to teach you. Some kids prefer to have a teacher that you can interact with teach you and they learn better.