

Writing Project

Write as a Citizen

Write a Persuasive Essay

Write an essay about the best way to do something at school or in your neighborhood. You can present your opinion as a speech, then share it in a book or blog.

Study a Model

In a persuasive essay, you state your opinion and then give evidence to support it.

The first paragraph includes the writer's **opinion**.

The **end** restates the opinion. The writing feels complete.

Plant a Garden!

by Nick Wojtek

What's the best thing to do with an empty lot? **In my opinion, you should make a neighborhood garden!**

A neighborhood garden is a great idea for many reasons. First, it's a chance for neighbors to get to know each other.

Second, the garden gives people of all ages something to do. A garden always needs watering and weeding. Even little kids can help with that!

Finally, the garden is something everyone can enjoy. Flowers bloom all summer long. If you plant vegetables, you can eat them as they ripen.

So, if there's an empty lot in your neighborhood, plant a garden! You'll be happy that you did.

Evidence supports the opinion and develops the writer's ideas. The ideas are worthwhile and interesting.

Prewrite

1. **Choose a Topic** What do you want to persuade people to do? Talk with a partner to choose the best topic.

Language Frames

Tell Your Ideas

- I think the *best* way to _____.
- I think people should _____.
- I really *believe* _____.

Respond to Ideas

- Why do you think _____ is the *best* way?
- I agree/disagree *because* _____.
- Let me see. You're saying _____.

2. **Gather Information** What evidence, or reasons, can you give to support your opinion? What details or examples might help?
3. **Get Organized** Use an opinion chart to organize your ideas.

Opinion Chart

Opinion: People should plant a neighborhood garden in an empty lot.

Evidence:

Neighbors get to know each other.

Evidence:

A garden gives people something to do.

Draft

Use your opinion chart to help you write your draft.

- State your opinion in the first paragraph.
- Put each piece of evidence in a new paragraph.
- Explain your reasons with details and examples.

Writing Project, *continued*

Revise

1. **Read, Retell, Respond** Read your draft aloud to a partner. Your partner listens and retells your opinion and evidence. Next, talk about ways to improve your writing.

Language Frames

Retell

- Your opinion is _____.
- The reasons you give are _____.

Make Suggestions

- I think you should state your opinion _____.
- Can you give a detail or example to help support _____?

2. **Make Changes** Think about your draft and your partner's suggestions. Then use revision marks to make your changes.
 - Make sure you include your opinion in the first paragraph.

What's the best thing to do with an empty lot?
~~Neighborhood gardens are nice.~~ *^ In my opinion, you should
make a neighborhood garden!*

- Do you develop your ideas with important details and examples? If not, add text.

Second, the garden gives people of all ages something to do. ~~Gardens take a lot of work.~~ *^ A garden always needs
watering and weeding.*

Grammar Tip



If the subject is **he**, **she**, or **it**, use **-s** at the end of an action verb in the present tense:

- The market **opens**.
- He **buys** fruit.

Edit and Proofread

Work with a partner to edit and proofread your persuasive essay. Pay special attention to subject-verb agreement. Use revision marks to show your changes.

Present

- 1. On Your Own** Make a final copy of your persuasive essay. Present it as a speech to your classmates or to younger students. Ask them to share their responses when you are done.

Presentation Tips	
If you are the speaker...	If you are the listener...
Remember, you are persuading others. Keep your tone firm and confident.	Listen attentively for the speaker's opinion. Make sure you understand what it is.
Make eye contact to make sure your audience is listening.	Listen for the reasons and details the speaker uses to support his or her opinion.

- 2. With a Group** Share your advice with others. Collect all the essays. Bind them into a book, and think of a good title for it. You could also start a weekly advice blog.

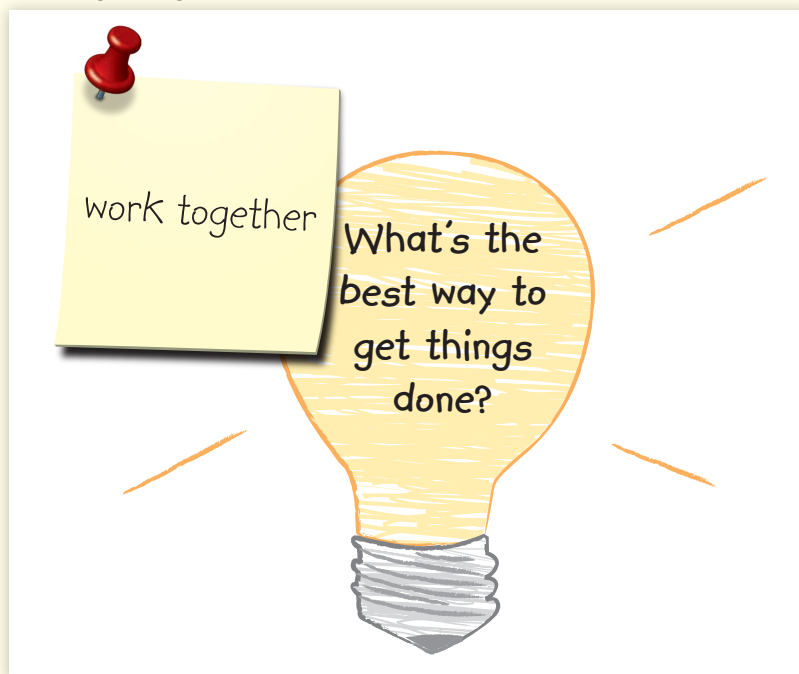




Talk Together

In this unit, you found lots of answers to the **Big Question**. Now, use your concept map to discuss the **Big Question** with the class.

Concept Map



Write a Description

Choose one of the ways on your concept map. Write a description of people using that method to get something done.

Share Your Ideas

Choose one of these ways to share your ideas about the **Big Question**.

Write It!



Write a Skit

Write a skit with a partner. Tell about a great way to protect trees or another part of nature. Decide whether to use formal or informal language. Perform your skit for the class.



Talk About It!



Be a Reporter

Have a partner pretend to be a character or person from the unit. Think of something you want to do, such as plant a vegetable garden. Use formal language to interview your partner about the best way to do this. Switch roles.

Do It!



Do a Chore Together

Think of a classroom chore, such as washing desktops. Have a group discussion to figure out the best way to do the chore. Ask questions and make comments. Then do the job!



Write It!



Write a Letter

Pretend that you have visited a city that recycles. Write a letter to a leader in your city. Tell how you think your community should recycle.

April 5, 20____

Dear Mr. Reyes,

I have just visited a city that recycles everything! I think our city should do that, too.