Persuasive Essay

Subject Areas: English/Language Arts and Social Studies

Grade Level: 6 – 12

Lesson Objective:
Students will use visual learning techniques to better plan and compose persuasive speeches or essays.

Common Core State Standards1:
Writing Standards for Grades 6-12 in English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects

Standard 1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

Standard 4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Standard 6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Overview:
Use the English - Persuasive Essay template with your students to help them successfully brainstorm, organize and write a persuasive essay: Inspiration Maps Starter Screen>Templates>English - Persuasive Essay.

1. Persuasive Essay Template

The goal of a persuasive essay is to convince the reader to accept your line of thinking about a debatable topic. Use this template to outline your opinions, facts, arguments and rationale for your persuasive essay.

- Persuasive Essay Title:

  - I. Introduction
    - A. Subject:
    - B. Opinion Statement:

  - II. Supporting Facts
    - A.
    - B.
    - C.

  - III. Argument
    - A.
    - B.
    - C.

  - IV. Rationale
Preparation:
- Access to library resources and/or the Internet would also be helpful for student research.

Lesson:
1. Explain that Inspiration Maps offers many tools and templates to help with the writing process, including the English - Persuasive Essay template which they will be using today. Open it and explain the areas of the template to the students. Be sure students understand that they will first develop this plan, research the topic and then create an essay.

2. Open the Persuasive Essay Example in this folder so students have an idea of a finished Outline. Be sure to point out the wording of the concession and rebuttal example, as this step is often quite challenging for students. Explain that acknowledging the opposition’s viewpoint and forcefully arguing against it is one of the strongest persuasive strategies they can use.

3. Prewriting: Have students select controversial topics. Then they can brainstorm and organize ideas and record preliminary research about it under the corresponding subtopic. It is important for students to do this preliminary research using library resources and/or the Internet to ensure there is ample evidence to support their positions. They can paste Internet addresses for sites which provide valuable information for later use.

4. Once students have completed this prewriting, they are ready to develop a position statement. Explain to them that a position statement is normally one sentence that states what one will attempt to argue in the speech.
5. Explain that throughout the prewriting and writing process students should obtain feedback from the teacher and their peers. This will be particularly useful as students write their concessions and rebuttals. Peers can raise counterarguments to each other’s positions which must then be logically rebutted.

6. From their completed outlines, students should have most of their essay complete. Be sure to emphasize that they should keep a careful record of the sources they use for a Works Cited page or Bibliography.

7. Students may print and or/share documents to complete their essay. Tap 📝 to print, mail or send work to a different App, Dropbox or iTunes.

Adaptations / Extensions:

• Inspiration Maps may be used to help students brainstorm their ideas about the topic. Students could begin the process in Diagram View by using the RapidFire® tool to quickly record what they know about the topic.

• This lesson can be used in any content area that requires students to write persuasively.