

## Your Persuasive Essay—How to Start

What would you like to change in your community? (Your community can be your neighborhood, your town, your home school, or K12 school.) How would you like to improve things? How would you make your world a better place?

Here are some of the things my students have asked for in the past:

- swings
- a GABA game for recess
- a paved path around the playground
- an art class once a week (as one of the specialists)
- a computer class once a week (as one of the specialists)
- more recess time
- longer lunch time
- different food for cafeteria lunch
- our town needs an off-leash park for dogs
- our town needs a Frisbee course at one of the parks

Once you know what you want to change for the better, write your position:

I think we need organic food options at lunch.

Then write the sentence or two to introduce your topic. Make sure it flows into your position sentence:

We have three specialists at school: music, PE, and library. I think we need to add art as a specialist.

Now you are going to skip ahead to figure out your reasons. Why should people agree with you?

Dogs need to socialize with other dogs.

Fresh air and exercise helps students focus on their work.

Once you have your topic, position, and several reasons, you can start filling in the Graphic Organizer. Do some research to help find good reasons as well as facts, data, statistics, and quotations to back up your reasons. You can add a personal anecdotes too, but don't leave out the other supporting evidence.