

Guidelines for Completing a First Draft of Your Persuasive Essay

Seek help from a classmate or teacher when you feel you're stuck. If you want to discuss a passage or paragraph with a partner to clarify your thinking, do it.

- 1. Plan to write at least four paragraphs:** the lead; a paragraph that addresses arguments for; a paragraph that addresses arguments against; and the ending.
- 2. Decide how you want to position your arguments:**
 - Pros first, then cons
 - Cons first, then pros
 - All but one pro first; at the end of cons add your best pro point
- 3. Reread your plan** and brainstormed list several times.
- 4. Get started** by writing your working title and lead on your paper.
- 5. Write the for paragraph(s)** that support your position. Return to the notes on your plan before or while you draft the paragraphs that contain arguments for and against. This can refresh your memory as you draft.
- 6. Write the against paragraph(s)** and address these points.
- 7. Add the ending,** your last paragraph.
- 8. Reread your lead and your ending.** Now that you have a first draft, decide whether you want to try a different lead or ending. Number the lead and ending on your draft, and rewrite these on separate paper.