

Three Paragraph Persuasive Composition – Outline with Example

The topic is the problem, situation, or issue.

Example: Yesterday, your neighbor told you that he is selling his beautiful Cocker Spaniel. You have never had a dog and love this one, but your parents think you would not take care of it.

Write one sentence about the problem, issue, or topic.

Do you agree or disagree? State how you feel about the topic.

We call this your “position” about the topic.

Example: I think my parents should let me buy my neighbor’s Cocker Spaniel.

Write one sentence about how you feel about the problem, issue, or topic.

Write a sentence giving three reasons why you feel the way you do and why someone should agree with you.

Example: The reason I (state how you feel about the topic) is because (reason #1), (reason #2), and (reason #3).

Paragraph 1

Transition,

Write one sentence explaining the first reason you have for feeling the way you do about the topic (reason #1). (Weakest argument)

Write one sentence that gives a supporting detail about reason #1.

Transition,

Write one sentence explaining the second reason you have for feeling the way you do about the topic (reason #2). (Stronger argument)

Write one sentence that gives a supporting detail about reason #2.

Transition,

Write one sentence explaining the third reason you have for feeling the way you do about the topic (reason #3). (Strongest argument)

Write one sentence that gives a supporting detail about reason #3.

Write one sentence explaining one of their reasons for not agreeing with you (acknowledge), then explain why this should not be a problem (counter).

Paragraph 2

Write one sentence that restates how you feel (your position).
Write this sentence a little differently than you did above.

Write one sentence that restates the three reasons you gave to support how you feel (your position).
Write this sentence differently than you did above.

Write one sentence that finishes the composition. This sentence needs to explain how much you would like the other person to agree to do something for you, or let you do something, or what action you would like them to take.

Paragraph 3