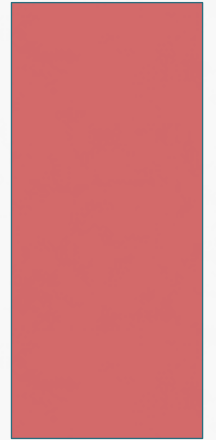


WRITING A GOOD PERSUASIVE  
PARAGRAPH FOR A SOCIAL STUDIES  
CLASS

ASSIGNMENT 1E1



# NOTES



## Vocabulary

- **Evidence** is the facts or information which show that a belief or opinion is true or valid.
- An **opinion** is a belief formed about a particular subject.
- When you **persuade** people to do something, you convince them to do it by reasoning with them.
- When a fact is **relevant**, it means that it is closely connected to the matter at hand.
- A **topic** is the subject of a piece of writing or conversation.
- A **topic sentence** is a sentence which expresses the main idea of a paragraph.

# NOTES



## Purpose of a Persuasive Paragraph

- To express an **opinion** you have about the world.
- To support your **opinion** with **relevant evidence**.
- To **persuade** people to agree with your **opinion** so they can accept it as fact.

# NOTES



## Writing a Topic Sentence

1. Write the **topic** or subject of your paragraph.
2. Write an **opinion** that you have about the topic.

# EXERCISE 1



Copy this chart on your notebook paper. Write an opinion that you have about each of them in the space provided.

Topic	Opinion about the Topic
1. school lunches	
2. school's role in cyberbullying	
3. cell phones in middle school	
4. standardized testing (like CMAS)	
5. raising the driving age to 18	

# NOTES



## Supporting Evidence

- You need to support your **opinion** with **evidence**.
- Your **evidence** needs to be **relevant**. It needs to be closely related to the opinion you are trying to support.

# ACTIVITY 3



Write down the statements that are relevant to supporting the idea that Salida Middle School is a great school:

- We've been called a school district of distinction by the CDE three years in a row.
- Our teachers do not wear jeans on days other than Friday.
- We have received an award for being healthy school.
- We have approximately 400 students.
- We have potted plants in the library.

# NOTES



## Planning the Paragraph

- Plan the paragraph to keep your thoughts organized during the writing process.
- Use a minimal amount of words to plan your paragraph. Don't write your paragraph twice!



# PARAGRAPH RUBRIC



- You've written a clearly identifiable topic sentence, that states the topic and the opinion you have about it.
- You've written relevant facts about the that support the opinion you have about the topic.
- You've written a paragraph of 100 to 125 words.
- Don't repeat thoughts and ideas for the sake of making the word limit. Unique ideas with each sentence.
- You've followed the rules of grammar and punctuation in your paragraph. You'll also have good spelling.