

Showing an Opinion

Persuasive writing, as in other kinds of writing, use reasons, facts, and examples to support your ideas. For instance, you might begin a persuasive piece by plainly stating your opinion.

I believe there should be more women television anchors on the nightly news.

Then back up your opinion with information that *shows* why you think you're right and why others should think the same way you do.

On the major television networks today, nearly all of the anchors are men. In the field of broadcast journalism, women work alongside men as reporters, writers, producers, and directors. These are all behind-the-scenes jobs, though. Since women make up more than half the population and about forty-five percent of the work force, women deserve to be seen and heard in equal numbers in front of the television cameras.

Identifying Showing Details Read the persuasive passage below and answer the questions that follow.

I feel that the government is not working hard enough to solve the problem of lead contamination. Exposure to lead can come from several sources—water, soil, and paint. Researchers, for example, have found that 819 communities—some thirty million people—have lead in their tap water. Children are most seriously affected because exposure to lead can stunt growth and cause brain damage. Environmentalists think it will cost \$10 billion to clean up the problem. Unfortunately, the government is spending only about \$90 million dollars to do the job. That's just not enough.

1. What fact does the writer use to show that lead in tap water is a problem? _____

2. What example does the writer use to show why lead is dangerous? _____

3. What fact does the writer provide to show that the government is not doing enough to solve the problem? _____

Showing an Opinion On your own paper, write a paragraph that shows your opinion about one of the following statements.

1. You should treat other people the way you would like to be treated.
2. There's no place like home.
3. Everyone should learn to use a computer.

Understanding Persuasive Writing

Persuasive writing uses facts and examples to support an opinion. You can use persuasive writing to help others understand your point of view and to convince others to think and feel the same way you do.

Analyzing Persuasive Writing Read this persuasive piece about the need for boating licenses. Then answer the questions that follow.

I think people who own or operate boats should have to take a test to get a boater's license. There are more than 46 million boaters in the United States, and only the state of New Jersey requires boaters to have a license. A license law would help make sure that boaters know boating safety and the rules of the waterways. Licensing would also help prevent accidents and deaths. As it is, there are about 350,000 injuries and 1,000 deaths each year from boating accidents. Some people say there are enough laws on the books already to protect people in boats and that licenses will add unnecessary expense. I think, however, that you can't put a price on a human life. If licenses will help cut down on the number of boating accidents that occur each year, then people should be required to get them.

1. Do you agree with the writer's opinion? Why or why not? _____

2. Why do some people disagree with the writer's opinion? _____

3. What reasons does the writer provide to support his or her opinion? _____

4. What facts are used to support the writer's reasons? _____
