

English II: Writing: Module 4: Lesson 2: Section 5

Writing the Persuasive Essay: Organizing Structure

Handout: Developing Your Topic

**Instructions:** Read the following quotation prompt. Decide if you agree or disagree with the quotation. Then plan an essay by filling in each box below. You need to persuade readers to agree or disagree with your point of view. When you are finished, mouse over the "sample response" button for one student's interpretation of the quote.

Only the weak are cruel. Gentleness can only be expected of the strong. —Leo Buscaglia	a
Topic	
Essential Question	
Position	
Purpose	
Audience	
Context	
Thesis Statement  Click for a sample response	

**Sample Response:** There are many different interpretations of this short quotation. Here is one possible response to the quote.

Only the weak are cruel. Gentleness can only be expected of the strong.

-Leo Buscaglia

**Topic** 

Cruel people are weak while people who are gentle are often strong people.

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Is bullying a sign of weakness while kindness or gentleness is a sign of strength?

Essential Question

Bullies are generally weak people, but it sometimes takes strength to be kind and gentle.

Position

To show students that bullying isn't a sign of toughness but rather a sign of weakness and insecurity. It takes courage and strength to always be kind.

**Purpose** 

Peers and teachers

Audience

It's hard not to join in sometimes when someone is making fun of someone else or bullying to show that we are part of the same clique. I want to persuade students that supporting a bully isn't cool in any circumstance.

Thesis

Statement

Context

Students who bully others are often insecure and have a need to prove that they are strong in some way, while students who protect the bullied or work to prevent bullying are the strong ones.