

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

Writing the Persuasive Essay: Organizing Structure

Developing Your Topic

Instructions: Using the boxes provided, develop a plan for the topic below. Consider audience, context, and purpose as you fill in each box. When you are finished, mouse over the "sample response" button for one student's response to the prompt.

Your school district is considering moving to a year-round schedule so that students don't fall behind academically in the summer. Write a letter that you will send to the local newspaper persuading the readers that this is a good idea or a bad one. You decide which stance to take.



Click for a sample response



English I: Writing: Module 4: Lesson 2: Section 5 Handout: Developing Your Topic (continued)

Sample responses:

Topic

Year-round school

Essential Question Should students go to school year-round?

Position

I don't think students should have to attend school all year long because then they can't do things like travel and go to camps.

Purpose

To persuade the community through a letter to the editor

Audience

People who read the newspapers—parents, administrators, and business owners.

Context

Because of all the national discussion about the state of education, our district is discussing moving to a year-round calendar.

Thesis Statement Students should not have to attend school year-round because they need time to travel and take part in extracurricular activities like camps to give them a well-rounded education.

Notes

- I will introduce my position by using research that suggests that learning experiences outside the classroom are important to adolescent development.
- rganizational I will add personal examples from peers that demonstrate the last bullet—work or travel experiences that might enhance student performance in the classroom.
 - I might find a chart or graph that shows the energy savings of closing schools during the hot months of summer.
 - I could find a listing of workshops and training offered and attended by teachers and administrators during the summer break versus how many are attended during the school year.
 - I could cite statistics that show how many high school students work during the summer and how many of these students are actually contributing to their family income.