

High-Performance Writing
Intermediate Persuasive Writing

School-Home Link

Dear _____,

During the next few weeks, your child will be working on Persuasive Writing at the Intermediate Level. Your child will learn how to write a persuasive composition that expresses an opinion and supports it with evidence from personal experience, statistics, and expert opinion. Your child will write a convincing sales pitch and learn how to present it to an audience. And your child will compose an effective advertisement for a newspaper or poster. Besides learning to write persuasively, your child will learn to categorize information as facts, opinions, or mistaken ideas. As your child completes the persuasive-writing assignments, he or she will learn important language arts skills, including rules for grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. Your child will also learn to organize ideas in order to be a better writer.

Here are some things you can do with your child at home:

1. When your child expresses an opinion about something, be a good listener. Ask your child what evidence can be used to support the opinion. Help your child categorize the evidence as personal experience, statistics, or expert opinion.
2. When your child brings home a persuasive-writing assignment, ask your child to read it to you. Praise your child's writing. Post it on the refrigerator. Share it with other family members. Talk about other persuasive compositions your child might write.
3. Read some advertisements in newspapers or magazines to your child, or have your child read some advertisements to you. Talk about what makes a good advertisement. Ask these questions: What important information does the ad include? Who is the customer the ad is trying to attract? What does the ad say that makes the customer want to buy the product?
4. Give your child materials to make a poster for a garage sale, a bake sale, or another event in which you participate. By applying what has been learned about writing advertisements to a real situation, your child will develop confidence in his or her new skills.
5. Provide paper and a pen or pencil for your child to write a persuasive composition. Encourage your child to express an opinion and support it with evidence such as personal experience, statistics, or expert opinion. Help your child with spelling as needed. Your child may want to draw an illustration to accompany the composition.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments about the writing we're doing at school, please feel free to call or meet with me.

Your child's teacher,
