Be In Your Seat When Bell Rings

• **You Need:**
  – Journal
  – Yellow Persuasive strategies sheet
  – Something to write with
TAKE NOTES IN JOURNAL

• There are 2 types of Persuasive Writing Prompts:
  1. Persuasive Stance/Position; and
  2. “Persuasatory”
Persuasive Prompt Type #1: Persuasive Stance/Position

• **Definition:** The traditional AGREE/ DISAGREE persuasive essay question.

• **Example 1:** A famous saying goes “Money is the root of all evil.” Do you agree or disagree? Support your answer with at least three examples.

• **Example 2:** Your school is considering enforcing a new dress code: a school uniform. Do you think your school should adopt this dress code?
Definition: The less concrete, less black/white essay question where you do not have to outright agree or disagree with an issue or position.

Example 1: Many students would like to volunteer in their communities during their summer breaks. Are there any volunteering opportunities in your community? Write a multi-paragraph letter to a community leader persuading them to have you as their summer volunteer.

Example 2: Many schools offer foreign exchange programs to their students so that they can travel abroad and learn about a different culture. Write a multi-paragraph essay persuading your school that you are a good candidate for the foreign exchange program.
1. Many people believe that television violence has a negative effect on society because it promotes violence. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your response.

2. We all have favorite activities that we enjoy. Write an essay convincing readers to try the activity that you enjoy most.
Persuasive Introductions

EXAMPLES of Strategies
Persuasive Introductions

• Taking a Stand
• Scenarios & Anecdotes
• Inquiry/Questioning
• Preparatory Information/Overview
Ineffective Introductions

• I hope you enjoy...
• You are going to learn about...
• This essay/letter is about...
• I am going to tell you about...
Taking a Stand

• **Avoid** “Because I Said So…” type reasoning in your essays

• Your goal should be **3 Reasons Why** for your Position or issue

• **Practice**—In your journal, write down this Persuasive Statement:

  The state should lower the driving age to 14.

  **Reason 1** = *in your journal*

  **Reason 2** = *in your journal*

  **Reason 3** = *in your journal*
Taking a Stand

Pick 1 of the topics to the right (or make up your own) and a write declaratory statement (take a stand/state your position) PLUS 3 reasons WHY for each (in your journal):

- War
- Rules at school
- Political candidates
- Teenagers and credit cards
- The environment
- Chat rooms
- Japanese animation
- Violent video games
- Guns at school
- Joining the military
- Teenage drinking
- Wearing animal fur
- Curfews
Taking a Stand

• “Defending the Ridiculous” handout
Taking a Stand

Student B ~ first draft

• I am writing on behalf of the no-uniform party. The majority of the student body is against the required wearing of uniforms being incorporated into our lives. Being that we are the larger percentage of the school community, we would appreciate if you would print this letter in your article to help the school board understand our point of view.
Taking a Stand + Scenario

Student B - revision

• Imagine a world where all jobs are run by robots. Everything is strictly calculated. There is no room for error. Nothing is different. Everyone is identical in physical attributes and mental. Now picture that as you look closer, you discover that these aren’t robots; they are human beings. This is what would happen if everyone thought the same; no one had imagination, and not a soul was creative. This is the danger of the school uniform.
Another Scenario

It’s 6:00 and your son has been watching television for the past three hours. You ask him if he has any homework, and he responds by saying “Yeah. I have a report due tomorrow.” You yell at him to go upstairs to do his homework, also saying that he is grounded for one week. “Well I wasn’t expecting the Spanish Inquisition,” he says. Then he runs upstairs. As you can see, television really affects teens in this day in age.
Starting with a Question: to do or not to do…

- Ask yourself, is there a better, more creative, more interesting way to start my writing?
- If the above is actually “no” or you are just plain stumped (like during the HSPE), make sure that your question can’t be answered with a “yes” or a “no.”
- If your reader can say “no,” then you’ve lost them.
Why NOT start with a question?

Question: Have you ever wondered...?  
**Answer: No.**

Question: Have you ever been...?  
**Answer: No.**

Question: Have you ever thought...?  
**Answer: No.**

Question: Do you like...?  
**Answer: Yeah. What’s it to you?**
Student C ~ example

Why do people consider some experiences as significant? Is it the lessons learned or the adventures that were involved? For myself, picking up a book and reading has been the most important thing that I’ve ever done. Reading is so beneficial because my intelligence continues to grow, the creative juices inside of me flourish, and even my writing has become more sophisticated.
Inquiry/Questioning Strategy

Summary

• If you REALLY want to use a question in your introduction, make sure it isn’t a “yes” or “no” question!
“Unseen they suffer, unheard they cry, in the loneliness they linger, in the darkness they die,” is a quote from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Each month, millions of animals suffer and die because of the testing of toxic products and weapons on animals. The cruelty of animal testing causes many animals to die horrible, painful deaths, even though they didn’t do anything to deserve this fate. Why do we test products on animals, when we wouldn’t want these products tested on ourselves? There are many reasons why animal testing is wrong and should be stopped.

• WHAT OTHER INTRO STRATEGIES DO YOU SEE?