



PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

After reading the entire page, choose a prompt, and write a five paragraph essay. Please do not forget to check plan your writing for 5-10 minutes on a hierarchical organizer that you have “quickly” created yourself.

1st Make sure the introduction has a "hook or grabber" to catch the reader's attention. Some "grabbers" include: (first sentence of your first paragraph)

1. **Opening with an unusual detail:** (Manitoba, because of its cold climate, is not thought of as a great place to be a reptile. Actually, it has the largest seasonal congregation of garter snakes in the world!)

*2. **Opening with a strong statement:** (Studying is the door to success)

*3. **Opening with a Quotation:** (Elbert Hubbard once said , "Truth is stronger than fiction.")

4. **Opening with an Anecdote:** An anecdote can provide an amusing and attention-getting opening if it is short and to the point.

*5. **Opening with a Statistic or Fact:** Sometimes a statistic or fact will add emphasis or interest to your topic. It may be wise to include the item's authoritative source.

6. **Opening with a Question.** (Have you ever considered how many books we'd read if it were not for television?)

*7. **Opening with an Exaggeration or Outrageous Statement.** (The whole world watched as the comet flew overhead.)

2nd Create your opinionated statement and defend it with facts. (1st paragraph)

There are three objectives of a **thesis statement:**

1. It tells the reader the specific topic of your essay.
2. It imposes manageable limits on that topic.
3. It suggests the organization of your paper.

"I've thought about this topic, I know what I believe about it, and I know how to organize it."

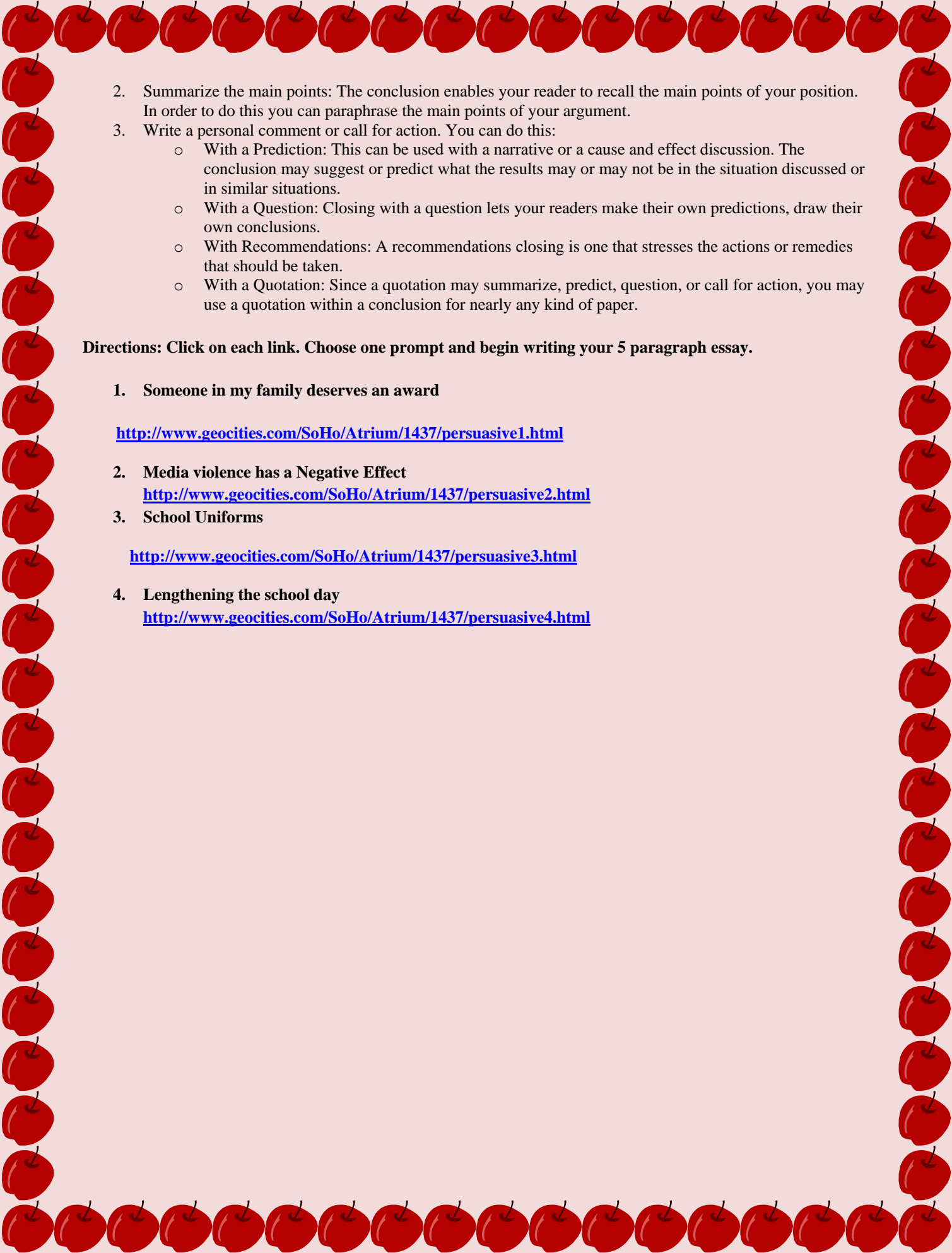
3rd Create the Body of the persuasive essay: (3rd, 4th and 5th paragraph)

The writer then provides evidence to support the opinion offered in the thesis statement in the introduction. The body should consist of at least three paragraphs. Each paragraph is based on a solid reason to back your thesis statement. Since almost all issues have sound arguments on both sides of the question, a good persuasive writer tries to anticipate opposing viewpoints and provide counter-arguments along with the main points in the essay. One of the three paragraphs should be used to discuss opposing viewpoints and your counter-argument.

Last Create your Conclusion: (This is the 5th and final paragraph of your essay)

A piece of persuasive writing usually ends by summarizing the most important details of the argument and stating once again what the reader is to believe or do.

1. Restate your thesis or focus statement.

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2. Summarize the main points: The conclusion enables your reader to recall the main points of your position. In order to do this you can paraphrase the main points of your argument.
 3. Write a personal comment or call for action. You can do this:
 - With a Prediction: This can be used with a narrative or a cause and effect discussion. The conclusion may suggest or predict what the results may or may not be in the situation discussed or in similar situations.
 - With a Question: Closing with a question lets your readers make their own predictions, draw their own conclusions.
 - With Recommendations: A recommendations closing is one that stresses the actions or remedies that should be taken.
 - With a Quotation: Since a quotation may summarize, predict, question, or call for action, you may use a quotation within a conclusion for nearly any kind of paper.

Directions: Click on each link. Choose one prompt and begin writing your 5 paragraph essay.

1. **Someone in my family deserves an award**

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Atrium/1437/persuasive1.html>

2. **Media violence has a Negative Effect**

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Atrium/1437/persuasive2.html>

3. **School Uniforms**

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Atrium/1437/persuasive3.html>

4. **Lengthening the school day**

<http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/Atrium/1437/persuasive4.html>