

Unit 7 Mini-Lesson

Persuasive Letters



What is a persuasive letter?

A persuasive letter is a letter that tries to convince readers to believe or do something. A persuasive letter has a strong point of view about an idea or a problem. It includes facts and examples to support an opinion, and it usually suggests a solution.



What is the purpose of a persuasive letter?

People write persuasive letters to “sway,” or change the minds of, their readers. They want readers to see their points of view. They may want readers to take action, too. A good persuasive writer knows his or her audience. He or she knows what facts and reasons might change the reader’s mind.



Who is the audience for a persuasive letter?

People write persuasive letters to all kinds of people: parents, friends, citizens, business leaders, world leaders, and others.

How do you read a persuasive letter?

Keep in mind that the writer wants you to support his or her position. Ask yourself:

1. *What is this writer’s position, or opinion?*
2. *Does he or she support it with facts and good reasons?*
3. *Do I agree with him or her?*



Uses powerful words to change the reader's mind

Suggests solutions or actions

Uses facts and evidence to make a case



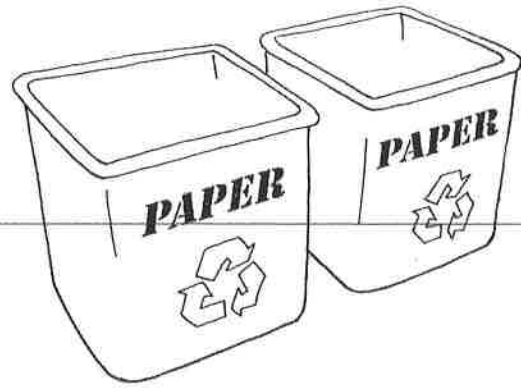
Persuasive Letter

Holds a strong position, or point of view

Has a specific audience in mind

Dear Principal,

Earth Day is one week away, and my class is determined to help the environment. We think we have a great idea, and we hope you'll agree. Our school must stop wasting paper and focus on saving trees.



Trees are very important. Many animals rely on trees for food and shelter. I have three apple trees in my backyard. Trees also help keep the environment clean. Leaves take in dirty air from cars and trucks and make clean air for people to breathe. We really need trees!

But every year people cut down trees. The wood is used to make many things, including paper. Many people use paper and then throw it away. They are wasting an important natural resource! Our school is guilty of this, too. We waste too much paper here. Ninety percent of classrooms don't have recycling bins, so all of our old papers go into the trash! I was shocked and disappointed to think about how much paper we are wasting.

In addition to metal and glass, our school should have paper recycling bins. If we had these bins, our old paper could be used to make new paper and fewer trees would need to be cut down.

We will need about \$350 to buy the bins for our school. My class would like to sponsor a bake sale next week. With the money we make, we would buy recycling bins for our school. We're optimistic that you'll agree and give your permission. Recycling is the right thing to do!

Sincerely,

Amy Adams

Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.**1.** Who is the writer of this letter?

2. Why do people cut down trees, according to the letter?

3. How does Amy plan to raise \$350?

4. What clues tell you that Amy is excited about her idea?

5. What causes the wasting of paper?

6. Summarize the solution that the writer proposes.

7. What does the writer say trees do for us?

8. What structure does the author use so that you know that this is a letter?

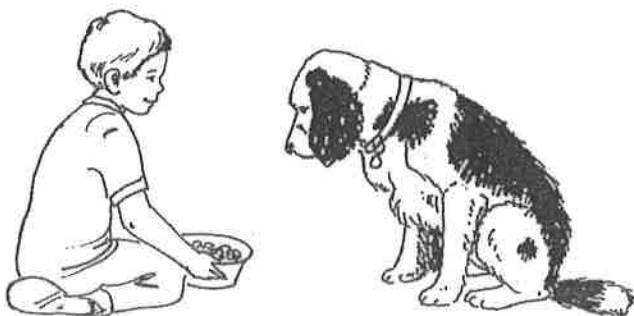
Dear Mom and Dad,

Ever since I can remember, I've wished for a dog. I love animals more than anything except for you two. I even want to be a **veterinarian** when I grow up.

I've asked for a dog, but you've always replied "no." But I'm much more responsible now. So I wrote this persuasive letter.

When I was little, you told me, "You're not old enough." But now I am twelve years old. I get myself up every morning, and I make my own breakfast. I walk to school and back alone. I do my homework every night and get good grades. I clean my room on Saturdays, without being asked. I even took care of Mrs. Poundstone's pets when she was away. In her letter Mrs. Poundstone said she would hire me again. I think this proves that I am responsible. I will walk my dog before breakfast every morning and again when I get home from school. Let's go to a shelter and get a trained dog. Then you won't have to pay for training.

Mom and Dad, I would be the best master ever. I won't disappoint you.



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

Justin told me how much he wants a dog. As a pet owner, I can sympathize. I told him that it was your decision.

I want you to know that Justin did a GREAT job taking care of my dog and cat. He fed them. He played with them every day. And he cleaned up after them. I would hire him again any day! He is very responsible, and he is very good with animals.

Sincerely,

Your neighbor
Eva Poundstone

Sincerely,

Your son Justin



Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.

1. The word **vet** or **veterinarian** means what in the passage?

2. Who is Mrs. Poundstone?

3. Who are Mr. and Mrs. Smith?

4. From the information in the passage, why was Justin not given a dog in the past?

5. Why does Justin want a dog?

6. What does Justin promise to do if he gets a dog?

7. What clues tell you that Justin is responsible?

8. Why did Justin include the letter from Mrs. Poundstone?
