

Writing a paragraph about a short persuasive piece

Now you've annotated and thought about a short persuasive piece, it's time to practise writing a paragraph on it. Here's an example:

In her letter to the Thomastown Leader, Jasper contends that the Government needs to do more to prevent climate change. From the outset, she focuses on the damage climate change is doing to the environment. She describes the country with the words "sizzled" and "burned", which creates a terrible picture of the landscape being roasted. In the second part of the letter, Jasper focuses on how to fix climate change. She states that the problem is "not difficult," reassuring the reader that it's an easy thing to solve. She also repeats that "we all know" the things we can do to fix the problem, which shows the reader that the solutions are all common sense.

Identify the contention:

The first thing you'll need to do is introduce the person, the piece they are writing and their contention:

Type of piece	Person and contention
<i>In her letter to the Thomastown Leader,</i>	<i>Jasper contends that the Government needs to do more to prevent climate change.</i>

Here are some more phrases you can use to do this:

Type of piece	Person and contention
In his letter to...	[Person's name]...
In her short piece on...	contends that...
In her short opinion on...	argues that...
	asserts...
	attacks...
	ridicules...
	supports...
	defends

Now it's your turn. Write a sentence introducing the person, the piece and its contention.

sample Resource

Identify a section of a piece and its focus:

After your first sentence, you need to introduce an analysis of the first section of a piece:

Section	Focus
<i>From the outset,</i>	<i>sh focuses on the damage climate change is doing to the environment.</i>

Here are some more phrases you can use like this:

Section	Focus
<i>From the beginning,</i>	<i>focuses on...</i>
<i>From the outset,</i>	<i>emphasises...</i>
<i>At the start</i>	<i>concentrates on...</i>

Now it's your turn. Write a sentence introducing an analysis of the first section.

sample resource

Analyse details

Now you need to analyse a specific example of persuasive language from a section:

Example of persuasive language	Analysis
<i>She describes the country with the words “sizzled” and “burned”</i>	<i>which creates a terrible picture of the landscape being roasted</i>

To help you do this, you should use the notes you made while you were annotating your piece, as well as any of the vocabulary words from any other handout you have.

And you can use these words to analyse the impact of persuasive language:

which

creates...

causes the reader to...

shows the reader...

reassures the reader...

demonstrates to the reader...

forces the reader to...

impacts on the reader by...

Rather than always analysing the impact of persuasive language by beginning with ‘which’, you could simply put a comma after the first part of the sentence and then use an ‘-ing’ verb, like in the example below:

*She describes the country with the words “sizzled” and “burned”, **creating** a terrible picture of the landscape being roasted.*

creating

causing

showing

reassuring

demonstrating

forcing

impacting

Now it’s your turn. Write a sentence analysing some persuasive language from the first section.

sample Resource

Identify a different section of a piece and its focus

Once you've analysed the first section of a piece and some language from it, you'll need to do the same thing for the second section of a piece. Here are some phrases you can use to do this:

Section	Focus
In the second part,	focuses on...
In the next section	continues to focus on...
Over the second half of the piece	switches the focus to...
	concentrates on...
	argues that...

Now it's your turn. Write a sentence introducing an analysis of the second section. Then write another sentence analysing some persuasive language from this section.