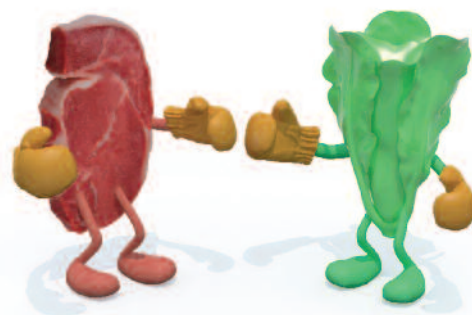


Supporting Your Argument in a Persuasive Essay

In a persuasive essay you want to convince your reader to agree with you. Ideally, your reader will start your essay disagreeing with your position and end it seeing the error of their previous opinion. To achieve this, you must do more than just state your opinion. You must support your argument. There are several ways you can do this:



- Facts including data
- Logical reasoning
- Show how arguments against you are incorrect
- Anecdotes (stories)
- Emotional arguments

The first two are the strongest, and you can rely totally on them. If you do not have facts, and if you cannot link those facts together in a logical way, no anecdote or emotional argument will be strong enough. Here are examples for the argument that vegetarianism is the best diet:

Facts/data

Vegetables and fruit have more nutrients and fewer calories than meat.

Logical argument

If you replace the meat in your diet with fruits and vegetables you will eat fewer calories. This means you will lose weight. This means vegetarianism makes it easier to maintain a healthy weight.

How to answer arguments against my position.

Some people say you need meat to get enough protein, but you can get appropriate protein from eggs, milk, and beans.

Anecdotes

After my uncle became a vegetarian he lost 30 pounds and says he feels healthier than he ever has before.

Emotional argument

The animals we eat—cows and lambs, pigs and chickens—feel pain and fear, and they deserve better than to be slaughtered.

Use this sheet to list items in each section that support your argument.

Facts/data

Logical argument

How to answer arguments against my position

Anecdotes

Emotional arguments
