

## Common Core Argumentative Writing Vs. Persuasive Argument the Old Way

### 1. Aren't *persuasive writing* and *argument writing* the same?

Yes and no. The burden of proof is more demanding when writing argument.

### 2. Explain persuasive writing.

When writing persuasively as currently done in traditional language arts classes, students attempt to convince the reader to accept a belief or claim/thesis as truth. Writers are **required** to provide facts and evidence to support the claim/thesis. Often the writer includes anecdotal information (short narratives/stories) and emotional appeal for convincing, techniques often grounded more in "**feelings**" or "pathos" rather than in facts. Persuasive writing is often associated with speeches and frequently requires listeners/ readers to take some sort of action to remediate an issue.

### 3. Explain argument writing.

When writing argumentatively, students **also** attempt to convince the reader to accept a belief or claim/thesis as truth. Argument writing **requires** the writer to provide facts/evidence to support his claim/thesis; however, emotional appeal and anecdotal information are not considered "hard" evidence. When constructing argument writing, writers use such evidence that is grounded in logic and various rhetorical strategies. Writers are also **required** to acknowledge and distinguish alternate claims (counterclaims in **grades 7-8**), develop strengths and limitations of both claims and counterclaims fairly (**grades 9-12**) and provide concrete and measurable evidence when supporting their original claims/theses. Grade 6 students enter middle school having had experience with writing *opinion/fact* pieces. Argument writing is introduced in grade 6 and continues through grade 12. Argument writing is often source-based writing and is associated with analyzing challenging non-fiction and fictional texts.

### 4. Is this new for our students?

Yes and no. Many students are required to provide hard evidence when writing persuasively, especially when writing research-based responses; however, such a requirement has not been the *standard* in Howard County when writing persuasively. The requirement to address and acknowledge counterclaims has also not been the *standard* while writing persuasively. With argument writing, both are essential and required components. Argument writing requires the writer to develop evidence-based reasoning for both claims and counterclaims.

### 5. Is the language in the Common Core unique to "Maryland" ?

Forty-one states and the District of Columbia will be using as their core document the Common Core State Standards. The document includes the instructional "common" language between and among states. In addition, the document is the result of collaboration among pre K-12 institutions, colleges, and university "Common Core" writers. Colleges generally use the term argument writing and not persuasive writing to address the demands of college-level writing.

### 6. Are there samples of argument writing?

Common Core State Standards includes Appendix C, which contains authentic, unedited student writing samples for each of the three types of writing. Here is the link. English Language Arts Appendix C <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>