



Middle and High School Persuasive Writing Project

We will be learning to write a persuasive essay on a Bible topic. This assignment will include learning to use Bible reference tools such as concordances and dictionaries, in addition to learning to build persuasive arguments. Ample time will be provided in class to do the work, however some students may choose to complete portions of their work outside of class.

Why a persuasive essay? The purpose of a persuasive essay is to convince a reader to adopt a certain point of view or to take a particular action. In other words, you want to win acceptance of your ideas when other people do not agree with you. The point of a persuasive argument is not to show our anger. Rather, the process of formulating a persuasive argument makes us examine our idea and those of others more carefully. The process helps us to examine evidence, consider the opposition's arguments, more clearly express our ideas, and justify our own position.

Persuasive speaking and writing is key to spreading the Gospel of Christ. The Apostle Paul engaged in such persuasive arguments in Acts 26. Paul declared that he was not mad, but spoke "words of truth and reason". King Agrippa told Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

There is no required length in a persuasive essay, however most are about 5 paragraphs long. The goal is to convince in as few and concise words as possible. It is therefore very important to make sure that all information in the paper is pertinent toward the subject of the essay. Do not include broad generalizations, personal opinions, and/or arguments on other subjects. Only relevant evidence and examples should be presented. Evidence should be in the form of scriptural references. All examples must also include scriptural references.

The topic of our papers will be obedience. The position you are to convince your reader of is, "Obedience to God is necessary to be saved." Papers should answer the following questions:

1. What is obedience?
2. Why is it important to understand obedience?
3. Does God require obedience?
4. What are we to obey?
5. What happens to those who obey God?
6. What happens to those who disobey God?
7. What should our response be given this knowledge?

We will use the following essay writing procedure:

1. Collect facts supporting your position; write each fact on a note card.
2. Organize facts into a logical order. Review for flow.
3. Write an outline containing all the facts collected. Review outline for completeness.
4. Write a draft paper from the outline. Review draft for completeness and grammar.
5. Correct the draft to create the final paper.



Persuasive papers need to be organized in a way that builds a case. There are numerous ways to organize a paper. You may choose either of the two following general paper structures:

Example Outline 1

- I. Introduction
 - A. *Declaration of the importance of obedience*
 - B. *Summary of evidence to be presented that backs up the declaration*
- II. Law and Commandments
 - A. *Definitions of law and commandments*
 - B. *God's laws for man*
 - i. Scriptures showing we are under law today
 - ii. Four examples of commands we have been given to follow today
- III. Obedience and Disobedience
 - A. *Definitions*
 - i. Obedience
 - ii. Disobedience
 - B. *God's Promises*
 - i. To the obedience
 - ii. To the disobedience
 - C. *Examples: command, person's actions, result/consequences*
 - i. Disobedience example 1
 - ii. Disobedience example 2
 - iii. Obedience example 1
 - iv. Obedience example 2
- IV. Conclusion
 - i. Restatement the importance of obedience
 - ii. Summarization of the key pieces of evidence
 - iii. What one's response should be, given this knowledge

Example Outline 2

- I. Introduction
 - A. *Declaration of the importance of obedience*
 - B. *Summary of evidence to be presented that backs up the declaration*
- II. Law and Commandments
 - A. *Definitions of law and commandments*
 - B. *God's laws for man*
 - i. Scriptures showing we are under law today
 - ii. Four examples of commands we have been given to follow today
- III. Obedience
 - A. *Definition of obedience*
 - B. *God's Promises to the obedient*
 - C. *Examples: command, person's actions, result/consequences*
 - i. Obedience example 1
 - ii. Obedience example 2
- IV. Disobedience
 - A. *Definition of disobedience*
 - B. *God's Promises to the disobedient*
 - C. *Examples: command, person's actions, result/consequences*
 - i. Disobedience example 1
 - ii. Disobedience example 2
- V. Conclusion
 - i. Restatement the importance of obedience
 - ii. Summarization of the key pieces of evidence
 - iii. What one's response should be, given this knowledge

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