

# Persuasive Essay Checklist

## CONTENT

- The essay answers the question/prompt.
- The author backs up the thesis with appropriate evidence.
- The author uses quotations appropriately.

## ORGANIZATION

- Title reflects the prompt/question.
- Introductory paragraph contains background information of topic.
- Thesis statement reflects the prompt/question.
- Thesis statement outlines the paragraphs within the body of the paper.
- Each paragraph of the body has a minimum of three sentences.
- Each paragraph of the body shows evidence for the thesis.
- Each paragraph has a clincher sentence that relates it back to the thesis.
- The conclusion reminds the reader of the thesis statement.

## STYLE (From The Institute for Excellence in Writing's *Teaching Writing: Structure and Style*)

- Each paragraph of the body contains a variety of dress-ups.
  - who-which clause
  - "-ly" adverb
  - because clause
  - strong verb (avoids *to be, say, said, go, get, see, eat, like*, and any other verb the tutor/parent deems fit to avoid)
  - quality adjectives (avoids *nice, pretty, good*, and any other adjective the tutor/parent deems fit to avoid)
  - adverb clause, in the middle of a sentence using words such as *when, while, where, since, as, if, although*
  - dual adverbs, verbs or adjectives
  - noun clause using *that*
  - adverbial and adjectival "teeter-totters"

- Each paragraph of the body contains a variety of sentence openers.
  - subject
  - prepositional phrase
  - "-ly" adverb
  - "-ing" participial clause
  - clausal
  - very short sentence
  - "-ed" participial clause
- Each paragraph of the body contains a variety of decorations.
  - question
  - conversation/quotation
  - three short staccato sentences
  - dramatic opening/closing
  - simile/metaphor
  - alliteration
- Each paragraph of the paper should have a variety of sentence styles (triple extensions).
  - word repetition in the same sentence or in sequential sentences
  - phrase and clausal repetition
  - repeated "-ings," consecutive or spaced
  - repeating "-lys," consecutive or spaced
  - repeating adjectives or nouns (consecutive)
  - repeating verbs, consecutive or spaced

## MECHANICS

- Punctuation, capitalization, and spelling have been checked.
- Quotations are properly formatted.
- The paper is typed and double-spaced.
- If applicable, the bibliography is properly cited.

This is not an all-inclusive checklist, merely a starting point. Please tailor to fit your own needs.