

Activity Ideas for Developing Persuasive Content

- Students brainstorm community/home/school issues. Use these topics to help introduce the idea of argument/counter argument/rebuttal.
- Students practice debates
- Students analyze televised debates
- Students do role-plays in which they adopt personas and play out the roles in a scene or conflict. Example: “student editor” and parent meet with “principal” and “school board member” to discuss the principal’s censoring of the school newspaper.
- Students do panel discussions and adopt personas as “specialists” on the issue and field questions prepared by the audience (students)
- Students read, discuss, and analyze editorials
- Students read, discuss and analyze persuasive essays
- Students create advertisement posters to promote their idea
- For literature – based persuasive content – Students are given essay topic/thesis as they start to read the book. As they read, students focus on one issue from the book per week, and write two paragraphs – each thoroughly supporting one side of the issue.