

[On the next page is prewriting that corresponds to these steps. It is for a problem/solution essay. A problem/solution essay is one kind of persuasive writing.]

### Persuasive Essay

Refer to pages R12 and R47-48 in your gold book for an explanation of persuasive writing.

Before writing a draft, prewriting is necessary as always.

When it is time to write, there are four main parts to include in your writing:

- I. State the problem/issue and state the brief solution.
- II. Support the solution with details.
- III. Anticipate an obstacle to your solution, and argue against that obstacle—the audience’s concern. (In other words, give a reason a reader might object to the solution, and explain how it carries less weight than the reader might think)
- IV. Make a call to action, then restate/summarize the main idea.

The steps above work with the thesis-support steps as follows:

- I. equals an A/B paragraph;
- II. equals one C paragraph;
- III. equals another C paragraph; and
- IV. equals the D paragraph.

You may have more C paragraphs if necessary.

[This prewriting corresponds to the steps found on the reverse and to the rough draft found at <http://misterfisher.tripod.com/roughcats.pdf>. It is for a problem/solution essay, which is a kind of persuasive writing. Notes like these within brackets are not part of the prewriting, but help explain it.]

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[Part I: Determine your problem, your solution, and your audience. Good persuasive topics are those you are familiar with, and problems that need to be addressed can fall into this category. Consider changes you would like to see at school, at home, or in the world at large. (More personal issues are usually the easiest to handle.) Would you like a school rule changed? Would you like a later bedtime or a bigger allowance? Would you like a pet? Consider issues that affect you on a personal level.]

I. Cats on the loose are a nuisance. Vote for a leash law for cats.

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[Part II: To explain why the solution is a good one, you must be clear about the problem. You might choose the most important two or three elements and explain them in some detail (to make your point), or you might include more details with less explanation if you think your reader needs to see the scope of the issue. However, do not simply list in your writing. Some explanation is necessary.

Also, you will probably reject some of your brainstormed elements once you analyze them.]

- II.
- kill birds/chipmunks/goldfish—leave parts around
  - fight at night & make noise
  - pee/poop – (sandbox)
  - scratch things
  - ~~- owners complain about their absence~~
  - annoy dogs – cause noise
  - ~~- climb trees—get stuck~~
  - bite, attack—rabies concern
  - ~~- hairballs, shedding~~
  - run in traffic
  - ~~- get in other houses~~

When on a leash, they're under someone's control. Problems can be prevented or fixed by a human. Cats will be safer—from car accidents, rabies.

[Also Part II: Consider how your evidence will sound when combined. If it is too negative, some may dismiss your argument right away (“he’s just a cat-hater”). You can be sympathetic to cats with this evidence, too: Leashing them will keep them safe from traffic and rabies.]

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[Part III: What is the important reason we don't leash cats now? Once you identify that, argue against it. If you ignore the argument against your position instead of anticipating it, some of your audience may never give your argument a chance because they never overcome a pre-existing objection.]

III. Leashes go against the fundamental nature of cats. They should be allowed to roam as they have been for the thousands of years they have lived with humans.

- But:
- Dogs would like to roam, but we don't let them.
  - Just because the problems aren't as big as with dogs doesn't mean they aren't worth fixing.
  - We DO control cats now. People who never allow their cats outside are going against their “fundamental nature.”

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[Part IV: Be direct with your call to action. Don't leave any doubt what you are asking. Often, this turns a first-person paper into a second-person paper at the end. There's nothing wrong with that.]

IV. Vote for the law for the benefit and safety of the community and its cats.