

Putting It All Together

By becoming familiar with the classic pattern of argument, you will be able to tackle any persuasive topic. On the ACT Writing test you will be given a topic similar to the writing situations mentioned in this workbook. You will not encounter a topic with which you, as a high school student, would not normally be familiar with.

So far, you have been working on one writing skill or essay organizational tool at a time. When it comes time to write your ACT writing essay, you will need to use all these skills and organizational tools. When all components are stated in sequence, you will have created a well written essay.

Here is the order in which you should progress and the activities you should do during each step:

What You Need to Do	Why You Need to Do It
Read the writing prompt	This will give you a general idea of the writing situation and your directions for writing.
Decide on your point of view	You need to make it clear in your mind what your point of view is regarding the controversy because the focus of the essay centers on this.
Complete a Reasons/Facts/ Comparison chart	This will help you to decide what information you will use to support your point of view. This will also give the specific details to support your point of view.
From Reasons/Facts/Comparison chart, decide on three main ideas of support	The chart should list several ideas that could be used in your essay. You need to decide which three ideas will best support your point of view.
Write your introduction	This will help you explain what the controversy is and what your position is.
Write three to four body paragraphs	These paragraphs are the heart of your essay. In each paragraph explain one supporting idea that supports your position.
Write your conclusion	End your essay on a strong note. These lines are important because they are the last ones your reader reads.

Writing Exercise 8

After reading each of the following writing prompts, go through the steps to write a persuasive essay.

Writing Situation 1

Within the last year, there have been several instances in this state that have involved students bringing guns to school. Because your school board is concerned about preserving the safety of its students, it is considering installing metal detectors at every school entrance. Many parents and students are divided about whether or not this needs to be done to ensure the safety of students and teachers. Think about what your position is on this issue.