

# Persuasive Writing

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In addition to the speculative writing prompt, you will be asked to write a persuasive essay on the ASK 8. In this task you will be told who your intended audience is and what you are being asked to write about. The writing topic will always be about a controversial issue or a problem. You will be asked to provide a point of view or opinion regarding this controversy or problem. How well you understand your purpose for writing and your intended audience will determine how effective your writing will be.

## The Prewriting Stage

In the prewriting stage identify the specific reasons for your point of view on the issue and the support that you will include in the body paragraphs. This will make writing the final essay an easy task.

A useful prewriting tool is the acronym TASK outlined below.

### The TASK Chart

#### **T = Type**

What type of writing will provide an appropriate response to the writing prompt? Are you being asked to write an essay, a letter, or a speech? Each one requires a distinct writing style. Understand the type of response you are being asked to write.

#### **A = Audience**

Who will be your audience?

#### **S = Side**

Are you being asked to choose a specific side or present both sides of an issue? Understand the specific writing task.

#### **K = Known Requirements**

Respond to all aspects of the writing prompt. You may be asked to address more than one task in your response. For example, you may be asked to identify possible solutions and then to choose the best one. These are two separate tasks! Must you offer one solution or several solutions? Don't give more than one solution if you are only being asked for one.

If you have identified your TASK and made notes of your thoughts in the prewriting stage, you can write a well-organized response that maintains a clear, specific focus.