

ESSAY WRITING CURRICULUM

workbook

Teach how to **write an argumentative essay**, whether that's a 5-paragraph essay or a formal research paper, with this **complete curriculum workbook**.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

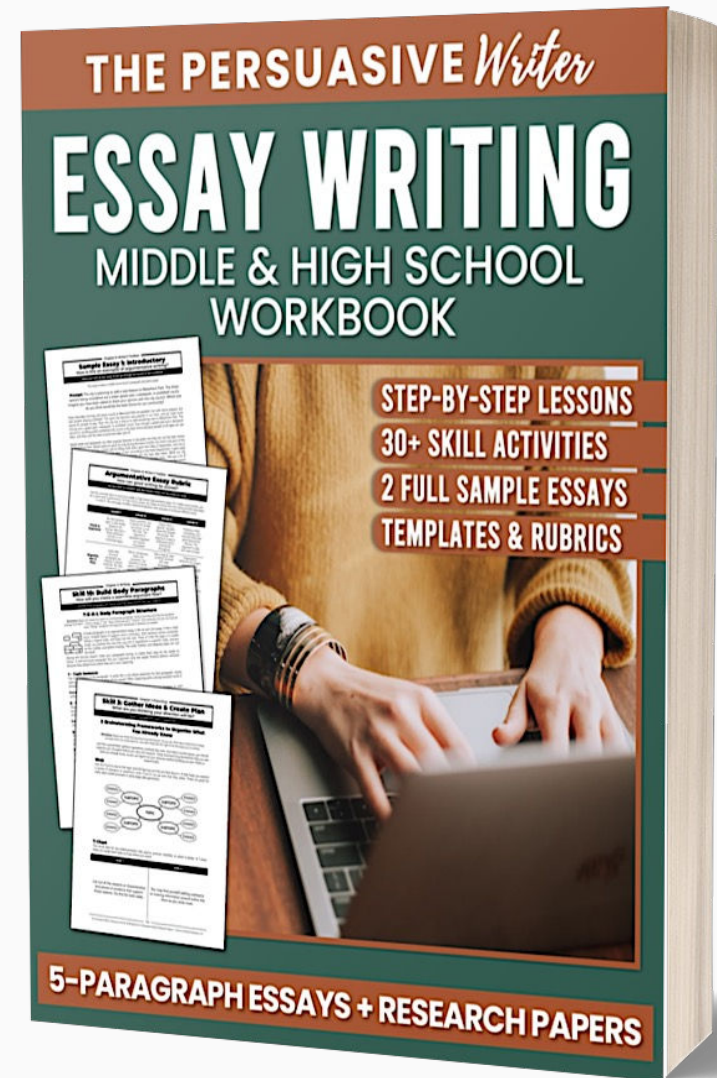
15 Sequential Skill Lessons teaching every step of the process, from brainstorming ideas to completing final essay revisions

Over 30 Activities to practice each skill before applying it to students' own essay

2 Full-Length Sample Essays to serve as mentor texts of good essay writing

Word Banks, Templates, & Frameworks to use again and again when writing future essays

Rubrics, Scoring Guide, & Answer Keys for complete support



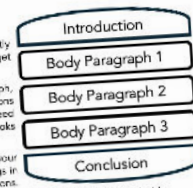
STEP-BY-STEP SUPPORT

with every skill

Chapter 3: Outlining Skill 7: Build Organizational Structure Which structure should I follow?

Common Structures for Essay Task Types
Directions: Read over these different essay outline types. Notice how each is slightly unique to its specific task, but they all still follow the basic five-paragraph structure.
The great thing about argumentative essays is that they follow a clear, dependable formula—right down to the sentence level. But that doesn't make them boring to write or to read. In fact, the structure gives readers a sense of familiarity and flow, just like how a recipe always lists ingredients in the order you use them and provides step-by-step directions. Once you know the "recipe" for an essay, you can focus on adding your own flavor.

Basic 5-Paragraph Essay Structure
The first argumentative essays you write will likely be exactly five paragraphs. As you grow as a writer and your essays get longer, think of this more as a five-part framework.
You'll always have an introduction and a conclusion paragraph, but these three body paragraphs evolve into sections that may be a few paragraphs each. Or you may need to add sections for more complex topics. Even non-fiction books follow this structure, where each section is a whole chapter.
Think of it as a sandwich: the top slice of bread is your introduction, the bottom is your conclusion, and all the fillings in between—lettuce, tomatoes, meat—are your body sections. Having already created your Research Tracker, you should have a good idea of what your inside "layers" or body paragraph sections will be.
Use the following tailored body paragraph structures as your starting point for the essay type you are writing.



Yes or No / This or That / How Much? / Characterization

- OP1: Background on topic, issue, debate
- OP1: Counterclaim
Discuss the other side and why it's wrong
- OP2: Strongest Reason
Argue the strongest reason for your position
- OP3: Second Strongest Reason
Argue the second strongest reason for your position

Chapter 3: Outlining Skill 7: Build Organizational Structure

- OP1: Counterclaim
Discuss how they shouldn't be thought of (either as similar or different) or the least significant similarity or difference
- OP2: Biggest Similarity/Difference
Argue the most significant characteristic
- OP3: Second Biggest Similarity/Difference
Argue the second most significant characteristic

7.1 Identify Body Paragraph Topics

Directions: Read over these sample thesis statements. Identify which parts are the X, A, and B of the argument. Then, write a sentence describing each body paragraph's subtopic, using the provided one as a guide. Use what you already know or conduct some quick research if needed. These sentences should be good starting points for your paragraph topic sentences that you'll use in the next chapter.
Remember, a great thesis is a clear roadmap of your essay. If you have a thesis built using the universal thesis formula, the outline will basically write itself.

- Thesis 1:** Even though e-books offer many tools that support reading, print textbooks remain the better choice because they have been shown to improve reading comprehension and reduce students' already excessive screen time.
- BP1 (Background):
 - BP2 (X Counterclaim): E-books have several tools built in, like highlighting, looking up definitions, adjustable font sizing.
 - BP3 (A Strongest Reason):
 - BP4 (B Second Strongest Reason):

Chapter 3: Outlining Skill 7: Build Organizational Structure

Thesis 4: Even though both private companies and the government will need to invest billions, building rapid charging stations and offering purchase incentives for electric vehicles provide the best solutions to accelerate the shift away from gas-powered cars.

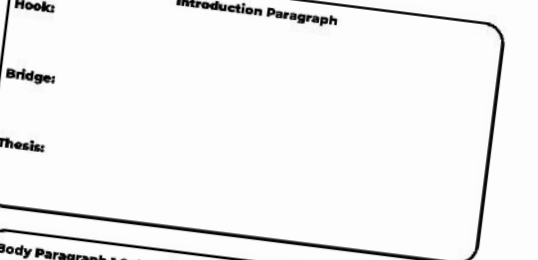
- BP1 (History):
- BP2 (Current Situation with Problem):
- BP3 (Least Effective Solution): The US government has set a goal of 500,000 standardized charging stations across the US by 2030; as of 2024, there were fewer than 70,000.
- BP4 (Most Promising Solution):
- BP5 (Additional Promising Solution):

Writer's Workshop: Frame Your Outline

Sample Essays
Identify the organizational structures of the Sample Essays (pages 73-77), and how each of the essay's parts follows that structure.
Your Essay
Decide which organizational structure your essay will use, then look over the multi-page Outline form (page 89). List down what each paragraph's subtopic will be. Cross out body paragraph outlines you won't be using. There may be more than what you need.

Ch. 6 Writer's Toolbox Stage 3: Outlining My Essay

Directions: Starting with the body paragraph sections, write in the paragraph's subtopics and pieces of evidence you'll use for them. Cross out any paragraph boxes you won't be using. When the body paragraph outlines are complete, the introduction and conclusion paragraphs should be easy to fill in.



1 Use Detailed Lesson to Learn Each Skill

2 Complete 2-3 Activities to Practice the Skill

3 Analyze Skill in Two Sample Essays

4 Do Skill For Own Essay with Templates

DESIGNED TO GROW

with the student

This workbook is **intentionally designed to be used again and again** because learning to write well happens over time.

- Lessons are essentially “How-To Guides” for each specific skill that your student can return to whenever they feel stuck.
- Outlining Graphic Organizers can be copied and filled in for each new essay.
- Beginner & Advanced Sample Essays provide mentor texts for good writing at different levels.

