Persuasive Essays

Persuasive essays ask the readers to think about a subject in a certain way. Often it asks readers to take some kind of action. It’s like selling your point of view, or convincing your reader that your opinion is the best one.

These are the important features of a persuasive essay:

- It clearly states an opinion
  > Going to college is a good idea
  > Smoking is bad for your health
  > People under 18 years old should not get married

- It gives reasons why readers should share the opinion
  > People who go to college can make a good salary
  > Smoking can cause lung cancer
  > It is difficult to be married and continue your education

- It provides examples or specific information to support the opinion.
  > People without a college degree usually don’t make as much money as people who have a college degree.
  > My aunt smoked since she was 14 years old and developed lung cancer when she was 55 years old.
  > I have friends who married before they were 18. They had a baby and had to drop out of school to work and take care of the baby.
This is the outline for a 5-paragraph persuasive essay.

I. Introduction (1 paragraph)
   A. Write at least 1 sentence to introduce your topic.
   B. Write a thesis statement that gives 3 reasons for your opinion.

II. Body Paragraph 1 (1 paragraph)
   A. Explains the 1st reason from your thesis statement
   B. Gives details
      i. examples OR
      ii. compares 2 situations OR
      iii. gives more specific information
   C. Must have at least 2 sentences.

III. Body Paragraph 2 (1 paragraph)
   A. Explains the 2nd reason from your thesis statement
   B. Gives details
      i. examples OR
      ii. compares 2 situations OR
      iii. gives more specific information
   C. Must have at least 2 sentences.

IV. Body Paragraph 3 (1 paragraph)
   A. Explains the 3rd reason from your thesis statement
   B. Gives details
      i. examples OR
      ii. compares 2 situations OR
      iii. gives more specific information
   C. Must have at least 2 sentences.

V. Conclusion (1 paragraph)
   A. Summarizes your ideas
   B. Restates the thesis statement with the 3 reasons for your opinion, but uses different words
   C. Must have at least 2 sentences.