

Name _____

Supporting a Claim

If you are writing to try to convince or persuade others to believe a certain thing or to take some particular action, then you are writing a **argumentative** or **persuasive paragraph**. One way to write a persuasive essay is to build towards a climax. Read the following pointers, and then try writing a persuasive essay of your own. Use the lined half of this page for notes.

1. Choose a topic about which you have a strong opinion.
2. Write a thesis sentence that clearly lays out what you want your reader to do, think or believe.
3. List reasons and facts to support your argument. Make your strongest argument #1, your next strongest argument #2, etc., until all your arguments have a number.
4. Write a persuasive essay in the following order:
 - Introduce your claim.
 - Organize your reasons and evidence clearly.
 - Restate claim/summarize reasons and evidence.
