

A Place to Play

This week we have a writing project for you that will incorporate lots of different skills.

We would like you to imagine that there is a piece of land near you that is being used for anything at all. It is lying bare and you think it would be a great place for a park! It could be any kind of park you like but remember that the final decision for whether or not to put the park there rests with the council and they have to be impressed with both the design and the cost.

DAY 1

Today, we would like you to start thinking about what the park could be used for and what it could look like. Who could use it? What could they do whilst they are there? Think about what would have the biggest impact on the local area and why - this will come in handy later in the week!

After you have decided what kind of park it is going to be, we would like you to create a plan, diagram or model of your park - don't forget to label the different areas with key information. You have a clear image of it in your head - you want to make sure everyone else can imagine how wonderful it will be too!

On the next page, we have put some examples for what your plan could look like.



DAY 2

You have thought carefully about what your park will look like and how it will benefit the local area... now it is time to convince the council to spend money into making it a reality!

You need to use all your powers of persuasion to ensure the council back your park. Your letter needs to be professional and well structured, as well as using all of the best features of persuasion. Take a look at the example below and pick out all the things you think work well - can you adapt any of the structure or content for your own letter?

Dear Mr Smith,

Having been a pupil at Spring Primary for the last seven years, I feel it is now my duty to relate to you the feelings of your students towards wearing a school uniform. It has long been felt by myself, and my peers, that wearing a school uniform is an outdated and impractical notion, which we no longer feel is necessary. By writing this letter, I hope to convince you that this is the case, and begin negotiations on changing this rule.

My reasons for not wearing uniform are as follows:

To begin with, a recent survey conducted by the school council identified that an overwhelming majority of 79% of pupils would prefer to wear their own clothes to school. As a Head Teacher, it is your duty to listen to and consider any opinions of your students and to negotiate with them. As the school council are an elected body of students from all the classes in the school, it is important that you take heed of any information they discover about the wants and needs of the pupils.

Secondly, myself and my peers feel more comfortable and at ease in our own clothes. This is important as the more comfortable we feel, the better we are able to concentrate on the work we are doing. If we are constantly fiddling with stiff collars, itchy trousers and uncomfortable shoes, this distracts us from the task in hand. Moreover, this distracts us from learning. Therefore, wearing our own clothes would improve and lengthen our learning time and ultimately impact and improve our achievement in school. The school's position on the league tables would rocket – and OFSTED would see that the Leaders and Teachers in school are working hard and getting results!

Finally, our parents would also benefit from the move to not wearing school uniform. Gone will be the excuses of not wearing uniform as our parents did not get it washed in time! Wearing our own clothes would mean there would be no lack of options. Parents would no longer have the mad Sunday rush of getting our uniforms washed and ironed in time for Monday. It would also reduce the amount that our parents have to pay towards clothing us. Good quality school uniform that lasts does not come cheap! Indeed – the money saved could be put towards school fund to buy new books, or stationary resources for our home, so we are able to effectively complete our homework.

As you can see, there are compelling arguments as to why the children of Spring Primary school should be able to abandon their uniforms in favour of more cost effective, practical and achievement boosting home clothes.

Please consider the points I have raised in this letter carefully. My fellow students and I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

Once you have found the most persuasive features, make a list of how they can be used in your letter!

DAY 3

Yesterday you examined our letter of persuasion - today it is time to write your own! Think about how you are going to grab the recipient's attention, hold it and put your points across. It doesn't have to be a long letter to be effective! Take a look at the structure below to help you:

PERSUASIVE WRITING:

Building an Argument

Name(s):

Main Idea

Here's what I (we) think:

MY REASONS

Evidence to support my reasons

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

Strong Conclusion

After careful consideration...
I now believe...
Clearly...
It is clear that...
The time has come...
I agree that...
It seems to me...

Counter Argument

You could argue...

Here is the WEAKNESS...



Now... weigh the evidence and make your conclusion.

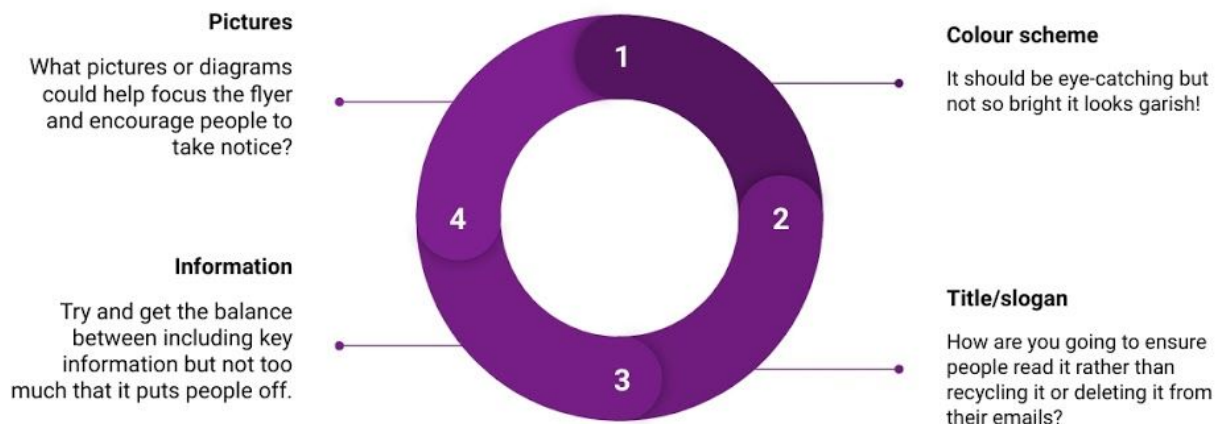
Concluding Statement:

Happy writing!

DAY 4

Wow! The council were so impressed with your letter that they would like to build a park on the area of wasteland. However, before they move ahead with the idea, they would like to get the opinions of the local community and to do so, are holding a meeting where residents can come and share their thoughts. Ideally, you would have lots of people coming so you can make the park as effective as possible so we would like you to design a flyer that can be sent to people living near to the wasteland to invite them to come.

- What is your idea for the flyer?
- Who is the target audience?
- What information do you need to include?
- How will the flyer persuade people to come?



You can create the flyer by hand or on the computer if you can!

DAY 5

What a busy week - the community loved the idea and it is going ahead! To end your project, we would like you write a blog post about what is going to happen to the wasteland - don't forget to include your efforts in getting it turned into a park!

Well done for all your hard work this week!