**PERSUASIVE WRITING**

**Steps to Plan your writing –**

**First** – read the issue or prompt TWICE – be sure you are clear about the argument about which you are being asked to take a side.

**Second** – create a T-chart to brainstorm all of the reasons you can think of for BOTH sides – you may actually have more to say about the side you don’t agree with!

**Third** - Pick the side you think you can best defend based on your T-chart – circle your three best reasons – these will become the framework or skeleton for your paragraphs.

**Persuasive Essay – Directions** – use the planning steps you have completed for the topic you have chosen to write a persuasive essay.

**REMEMBER – your GOAL is to convince the reader to agree with you about the issue.**

**Paragraph One** – Introduce the issue you are writing about – try to begin in an interesting way that will “hook” your reader and make them want to read more. Introduce each of your reasons, but DO NOT start to explain the reasons or give the details or examples in this paragraph.

**Paragraph Two** – Reintroduce your Reason One – now you should fully explain this reason and give all of your details and examples.

**Paragraph Three** – Reintroduce your Reason Two – fully explain this reason and give all of your details and examples to support this reason.

**Paragraph Four** – Reintroduce your Reason Three – fully explain this reason and give all of your details and examples to support this reason.

**Conclude** in a strong, clear way – do not repeat the things you have already said, try to make your point one last time using different wording.

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**Leads that work:**

Do you bring your cell phone to school?

Should students be allowed to use cell phones during school hours?

Do you know some schools have banned the use of cell phones by students?

I believe that schools should let kids use their cell phones.

Today many kids have cell phones and many bring them along to school.

Cell phones aren’t needed during school hours.

Lunch or recess?

I find it easier to concentrate in class on days when I have PE.

Just about all kids love Gym class.

How do you feel when you are cooped up in your house all day on a rainy day? That’s what it can be like at school for many children.

Immigrants who entered the US illegally, but have been living here for 25 years or longer should not be allowed to legally stay.

Immigrants are illegally crossing our borders.

It’s not fair that 11 million illegal immigrants get to live in the U.S.

Have you heard about the immigration debate that is taking place in the US?

I believe that the immigrants that are now in the US should be allowed to stay.

**Ways you SHOULD NOT begin your essay:**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am going to tell you

I am writing about\_\_\_\_\_

I am here to tell you about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The debate this week is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The article I read is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have three reasons why\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Ways you SHOULD NOT start your paragraphs:**

My first reason is

My first is

First

My first reason why is because

**Decide who you are writing about and use that term or terms that agree with that term throughout your writing:**

If you start writing about “Kids” use terms such as Kids, Students, they

DO NOT switch over to “we” or “you”

If you are writing about the “United States” use terms like “the nation” “the US” or “the country”

DO NOT switch over to “we” or “they”

Conclude by RESTATING your position – NOT repeating what you have already said

 REPEAT = YAWN

 The issue I am writing about is whether kids should be allowed to use cell phones in school. I have three reasons why kids do not need cell phones in school: there are phones in each classroom and front office, they are a distraction, they can be used to bully.

 My first reason why cell phones are not needed in school is each classroom has a phone. There is also a phone in the main office. If someone needs to call your parent it can be done from one of the phones in the school. Also, if power goes out and the phone lines are out, all of the teachers have phones which they can use.

 My second reason why cell phones are not needed in school is they can be a distraction. If kids bring their phones to class and we start to use them we won’t be paying attention. There are too many games and apps on phones that will pull our attention away from what you are supposed to be doing in school.

 The last reason why they are not needed in school is because they are another way that kids bully each other. There are already too many ways kids can be mean to each other at school, phones would just add another method for mean-spirited kids to harass other kids. Unfortunately, there are always a few kids who go out of their way to give others a hard time and if cell phones are allowed in school it will give them one more tool to use to hurt others.

 In conclusion, kids should not be allowed to use cell phones at school because there are already phones at school, they are a distraction and they can be used to bully.

 There has been a lot of discussion lately about whether kids should be allowed to use cell phones in school. Kids do not need cell phones in school. There are phones in each classroom and front office which can be used for emergencies or to contact parents when that is needed. Phones can be a major distraction for many kids. Also, these days phones can be used by some kids to bully others.

 Today’s modern classrooms have phones that dial out. There is also a phone in the office. If someone needs to call a student’s parent it can be done from one of the phones in the school. In the unlikely event there is a weather emergency and power goes out, including the phone lines, all of the teachers have cell phones which they can use. There is really no reason for students to have a phone with them – up until ten years ago cell phones were not around and students managed just fine in school all day.

 Cell phones can be a big distraction during the school day. If kids bring their phones to class and start to use them they won’t be paying attention. There are too many games and apps on phones that can pull kids attention away from what they are supposed to be doing in school. There are already so many things that can distract kids away from their lessons without adding cell phones to the mix.

 Cell phones are another way that kids bully each other. There are already too many ways kids can be mean to each other at school, phones would just add another method for mean-spirited kids to harass other kids. Unfortunately, there are always a few kids who go out of their way to give others a hard time and if cell phones are allowed in school it will give them one more tool to use to hurt others.

 Some people may feel that kids need phones for safety reasons, however, with all of the phones that already exist in schools; I cannot think of any good reasons why kids need to have cell phones at school. Phones would just be a distraction and could lead to more bullying than already exists in school.