

Parts of a Persuasive Theme with Examples

Title

Introduction -

Introduces the claim

Body –

Provides the Major Reasons

AND Examples

Conclusion –

**Sums up the reasons AND
examples**

The Paragraphs

- **Introductory Paragraph**
 - **Specifies your claim**
- **Reasons/Examples Paragraphs**
 - **Each specifies a major reason plus tells a mini-story to illustrate the reason**
- **Concluding Paragraph**
 - **Sums up the reasons and examples**
 - **Provides suggestions**

Sentences in the Introductory Paragraph

Topic Sentence

**Specifies the issue or your claim
or both**

Grabs the reader's attention

Detail Sentences

**Tell about the Introductory Option
or background information with:**

- **Lead-off Sentences and**
- **Follow-up Sentences**

Thesis Statement

- **States your claim**
- **Names the major reasons**
- **Tells the main message**

Example Introductory Paragraph

“Pay it forward” is a saying that means “help others without worrying about ever getting paid back.” The saying became famous when it was the title of a movie. The movie was about a boy who decided that he would “Pay it forward” and ask each person whom he helped also to “Pay it forward” by helping someone else instead of returning a favor to him. The story shows what happens to him and to each person whom he helped and who helped others. Basically, as more and more people helped others, a special feeling of good will spread. The people in the movie learned that helping others produces good results for the person helped, good results for the community, and good results for the helper. Truth be told, that also happens in real life; helping others results in a lot of benefits for everyone.

Types of Sentences in Reasons Paragraphs

- **Topic/Transition Sentence**
Specifies the major reason

Optional: **Follow-up Sentence**
about the reason

- **Detail Sentences**
Lead-off Sentences and Follow-up Sentences that provide details about events in the mini-story

Example Reasons Paragraph

Moreover, “Paying it forward” can also result in benefits for the community. An example of a way that helping others can benefit the community is Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is an organization where volunteers build houses for others. Businesses provide free building materials, and people give their time and talents to put all of the pieces of homes together. In this way, new homes are built in the community, making the community look good. Also, families who cannot afford to buy homes are able to have a home of their own. Whole neighborhoods of homes have been built in this way, creating stronger communities.

Types of Sentences in Concluding Paragraphs

- **Concluding Transition Sentence**
 - Has a Concluding Transition
 - Names the claim
- **Detail Sentences**
 - Summarize the reasons
 - Summarize the examples
 - Provide suggestions
- **Clincher Sentence**
 - Supports the claim
 - Provides the message

Example

Concluding Paragraph

In sum, helping others without worrying about payoffs in return can result in several types of benefits. Because the benefits can be dramatic, people should look for any situation where they can help others. They should look for situations where people are struggling and cannot help themselves. They should look for opportunities to turn a bad situation around. Typically, in such situations, just a few minutes of lending a helping hand can make a positive difference in another person's day or even that person's whole life. If everyone keeps making a positive difference, the world becomes a better place to be, and life becomes a better experience for all. "Paying it forward" can indeed change the life of the person being helped, the community, AND the helper!

Argumentative Theme with Examples

- **Introductory Paragraph**
 - **Specifies the claim**
- **Reasons/Examples Paragraphs**
 - **Each specifies a main reason plus provides an example from the literature to illustrate the reason**
 - **Each includes evidence**
- **Concluding Paragraph**
Sums up the reasons and provides suggestions