

# English II Writing Persuasive Prompt

Read the following quotation.

"I intend to live forever, or die trying."

*~Groucho Marx  
American comedian and film and television star*

If someone discovered a formula that would enable us to live forever, would that be a blessing or a curse?

Write an essay convincing others of your position.

Be sure to –

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

## **Planning Guide Persuasive Papers**

- I. Introductory paragraph
  - A. Topic
  - B. The debate
  - C. Position or best choice (thesis)
  - D. Reasons or arguments (forecast)
- II. Body paragraphs
  - A. Reason or argument stated in a topic sentence\*
  - B. Supporting details\*\*
    - 1. Examples
    - 2. Cause and effect
    - 3. Personal experience
- III. Summary and conclusion paragraph
  - A. Restatement of the position (thesis or claim) or best choice
  - B. Restatement of the reasons or arguments (forecast)
  - C. Conclusion (one or more of the following)
    - 1. Call to action
    - 2. Suggestion for a solution
    - 3. Parting thought

### Types of Reasons

- M - money (financial)
- S - safety
- H - health
- E - environmental
- E - educational
- P – people (social relationships)

\* No set number of reasons or supporting details

\*\* Other methods of support can be equally effective.

## Planning Organizer

### Persuasive: Pro or Con

#### Thesis statement

If someone discovered a formula that enabled us to live forever, it would be a blessing due to the many opportunities and experiences you could gain from living that long.

Possible Reasons or Arguments For (Pro)	Supporting Details
No time constraint	Travel the world and experience all cultures and traditions
	Try anything and everything
	Limitless experiences
	Solve world problems
Never stop learning	A privilege
	Teach others vast knowledge
	Gain perspective of the world
	Help people

#### Conclusion

Living forever offers you the world and offers the world your actions.

#### Strong call to action

## I. Introduction

Thesis-Position - If someone discovered a formula that enabled us to live forever, it would be a blessing due to the many opportunities and experiences you could gain from living that long.

## II. Body

MI - No time constraint

- Travel the world and experience all cultures and traditions
- Try anything and everything
- Limitless experiences
- Solve world problems

MI - Never stop learning

- A privilege
- Teach others vast knowledge
- Gain perspective of the world
- Help people

## III. Closing

Thesis-Position and PT - Living forever offers you the world and offers the world your actions.

## Collaborative Interactive Writing Activity

Teacher directions - cut apart each part of the writing plan.

- Provide each group a part of the essay.
- Draft each paragraph using the plan provided.



### I. Introduction (Topic stated in a thesis statement & main ideas)

Add a meaningful hook or lead to grab your reader's attention. Use this thesis (position) or develop one with a similar idea.

Thesis or position – If someone discovered a formula that enabled us to live forever, it would be a blessing due to the many opportunities and experiences you could gain from living that long.

Write a topic sentence with the MI. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

### II. Body

MI – No time constraint

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

- Travel the world and experience all cultures and traditions
- Try anything and everything
- Limitless experiences
- Solve world problems

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Write a topic sentence with the MI. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

### MI - Never stop learning

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.
- A privilege
- Teach others vast knowledge
- Gain perspective of the world
- Help people

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### III. Conclusion

Use the restated thesis (position) or develop one with fresh new words.

Use the parting thought or develop a new one to leave your audience with a thoughtful closing.

Thesis and PT - Living forever offers you the world and offers the world your actions.

**Thesis statement**

If someone discovered a formula that would enable us to live forever, it would be a curse.

Possible Reasons or Arguments Against (Con)	Supporting Details
Have to see loved ones die	Constant loss of loved ones
	Might avoid bonding with others
	Cause a fear friendships
	Family loss
The cost of living	Make money last for a lifetime
	You would have to work you whole life
	Not be able to retire
	Inflation
Get very old and debilitated	You won't be able to take care of yourself
	May not stay strong forever
	Injuries to the body

**Conclusion**

Although it might seem great to live forever, there are personal and financial disadvantages.

**Strong call to action**

The best thing is to stay young at heart.

## I. Introduction

Thesis-Position - If someone discovered a formula that would enable us to live forever, it would be a curse.

## II. Body

MI - Have to see loved ones die

- Constant loss of loved ones
- Might avoid bonding with others
- Cause a fear of friendships
- Family loss

MI - The cost of living

- Make money last for a lifetime
- You would have to work your whole life
- Not be able to retire
- Inflation

MI - Get very old and debilitated

- You won't be able to take care of yourself
- May not stay strong forever
- Injuries to the body

## III. Closing

Thesis-Position and PT - Although it might seem great to live forever, there are personal and financial disadvantages.

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Write a topic sentence with the MI. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

### II. Body

MI – Have to see loved ones die

- You may add other supporting details. Use detail moves to make your writing interesting and engaging.

- Constant loss of loved ones
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Write a topic sentence with the MI. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

MI – The cost of living

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III. Conclusion

Use the restated thesis (position) or develop one with fresh new words.

Thesis and PT - Although it might seem great to live forever, there are personal and financial disadvantages.

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## Revision Checklist Persuasive

Introductory Paragraph	Body Paragraphs			Concluding Paragraph
Topic _____	Main Ideas			Topic _____
Thesis _____ (Choice or Position)	1 <sup>st</sup> reason _____	2 <sup>nd</sup> reason _____	3 <sup>rd</sup> reason _____	Thesis _____ (Choice or Position)
Reasons 1. _____	E_____	E_____	E_____	Reasons _____
2. _____	CE_____	CE_____	CE_____	Solution _____
3. _____	PE_____	PE_____	PE_____	Call to Action _____
	Other_____	Other_____	Other_____	Parting Thought _____

### Sentence Variations

**Compound Sentence with correct comma usage before the FANBOYS \_\_\_\_\_**

**Complex Sentences with correct comma, based on subordinate conjunction placement**

**BONUS! Compound Complex Sentences with correct comma usage \_\_\_\_\_**

### Detail Sentence Leads – Author’s Craft: Place checkmarks next to the detail leads.

Details that Describe	Action Details	Persuasive Details	Details that Inform	Dialogue Details
State the obvious	Act and think	If...then	State the opposite	“Dialogue” with tags
Just like that	But, why???	Take the opposite side	What’s Next?	Instead of <i>said</i>
Action, action, action clues	Numbers date/time/value	Good insightful question(s)	High Interest – what’s next	Talking and thinking
In the middle	Location transition	Imagine this...	Positive sweet with a negative sour	Action and words
Zoom in & describe	Adverb comma	It’s complicated and complex	For the first time ever..	Tell me about it
Intentional repetition	<i>ings</i> phrases present participles	Now...Then	Define it	
Pop culture	Eds phrases	We... statements of unity	AKA – proper nouns	
Personification people characteristics	Onomatopoeia (sound)	Call to action	In other words (restatement)	
Set the stage		Hyperbole exaggerate!	Important or significant	
I, we, they think			Love, love, love	
			Historical reference	

