

# English II Writing Persuasive Prompt

Read the following quotation.

"My first sentence of my essay to get into college was like, 'Imagine being blind and deaf at age seven' and that's kind of what it felt like moving to the States. But I got over it pretty fast."

*–Mila Kunis  
American actress, born in Ukraine, raised in Russia*

In our increasingly global society, many people feel that all students should be required to learn a foreign language before graduating from high school. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Write an essay explaining your position using specific reasons and examples.

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**

As our society is increasing globally, learning a foreign language is a necessary skill that is admired and advantageous in the real world.

<b>Possible Reasons or Arguments For (Pro)</b>	<b>Supporting Details</b>
Look upon favorably	Learn more about another culture
	Easier to travel
	Helps one understand diversity
Makes a student well rounded	College transcript
	Continue your second language in college
An advantage to know a second language	Global economy
	Partnerships around the world.
	International business
	Social media

#### **Conclusion**

Learning a new language has practical and global benefits for all teens; therefore, schools should make it mandatory to learn a new language.

#### **Strong call to action or solution**

## I. Introduction

Thesis-Position - As our society is increasing globally, learning a foreign language is a necessary skill that is admired and advantageous in the real world.

## II. Body

MI - Look upon favorably

- Learn more about another culture
- Easier to travel
- Helps one understand diversity

MI - Makes a student well rounded

- College transcript
- Continue your second language in college

MI - An advantage to know a second language

- Global economy
- Partnerships around the world.
- International business
- Social media

## III. Closing

Thesis-Position and PT - Learning a new language has practical and global benefits for all teens; therefore, schools should make it mandatory to learn a new language.

## 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 – As our society is increasing globally, learning a foreign language is a necessary skill that is admired and advantageous in the real world.

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

### II. Body

MI – Look upon favorably

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

- Learn more about another culture
- Easier to travel
- Helps one understand diversity

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

MI – Makes a student well rounded

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

- College transcript
- Continue your second language in college

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MI – An advantage to know a second language

- Global economy
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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.

III. Conclusion

Thesis and PT – Learning a new language has practical and global benefits for all teens; therefore, schools should make it mandatory to learn a new language.

**Thesis statement**

A foreign language class should not be mandated for credit in high school; it should be taken by choice because often it is unnecessary and time consuming.

Possible Reasons or Arguments Against (Con)	Supporting Details
No actual benefits	Some people think that it is a waste of time
	If a student does not want to learn one, he/ she will not
	low test scores and a lower GPA
	Does more harm than good
	Looks bad on a transcript
Trouble learning English	English should be mastered before any other language.
	Essay and composition writing is difficult
	Research papers are challenging

**Conclusion**

Learning a new language can help you in many ways; however, schools should only make it mandatory for students who find it relevant to their course of study. Otherwise, it is a complete waste of time and may even impact learning the English language.

**Strong call to action or solution**

## I. Introduction

Thesis-Position – A foreign language class should not be mandated for credit in high school; it should be taken by choice because often it is unnecessary and time consuming.

## II. Body

MI – No actual benefits

- Some people think that it is a waste of time
- If a student does not want to learn one, he/ she will not
- low test scores and a lower GPA
- Does more harm than good
- Looks bad on a transcript

MI – Trouble learning English

- English should be mastered before any other language.
- Essay and composition writing is difficult
- Research papers are challenging

## III. Closing

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### MI – Trouble learning English

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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	