

English II Writing Persuasive Prompt

Read the following quotation.

Your home is your home, no matter how humble or grand.

~Anonymous

Think about the advantages and disadvantages of small town and city living.

Write an essay stating your position on whether it is better to live in a small town or a large city.

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: Choice

Thesis statement

If given the choice between the two, without a doubt, city living is superior because it provides invaluable opportunities that small towns can't match to any degree.

Possible Reasons or Arguments For (Pro)	Supporting Details
Always something to do in a big city	parks
	theaters
	restaurants
	endless entertainment
	small town can't keep a grocery stocked
The people make a city great	meet more people
	everyone is different too
	can teach you about the world

Conclusion

City life offers endless places to enjoy with the people who make it great.

Strong call to action

Find a place to call home among the masses of many.

I. Introduction
(hook)
Thesis-Position

If given the choice between the two, without a doubt, city living is superior because it provides invaluable opportunities that small towns can't match to any degree.

II. Body
MI - Always something to do in a big city

- parks
- theaters
- restaurants
- endless entertainment
- small town can't keep a grocery stocked

MI - The people make a city great

- meet more people
- everyone is different too
- can teach you about the world

III. Closing

Thesis-Position and PT - City life offers endless places to enjoy with the people who make it great.

Call to Action: Find a place to call home among the masses of many.

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.



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

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

Thesis or position – If given the choice between the two, without a doubt, city living is superior because it provides invaluable opportunities that small towns can't match to any degree.

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

II. Body

MI – Always something to do in a big city

- parks
- theaters
- restaurants
- endless entertainment
- small town can't keep a grocery stocked

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

MI – The people make a city great

- meet more people
- everyone is different too
- can teach you about the world

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. Be sure to include a "Call to action."

III. Conclusion

Thesis and PT – City life offers endless places to enjoy with the people who make it great.

Call to Action: Find a place to call home among the masses many.



A mentor text activity

Directions: As a collaborative activity, have students read and choose one sample “hook” or “parting thought.” Students may also choose to simply change some of the words. In high school, truisms, historical references, and noted quotes are effective introductory statements that represent a growing complexity in writing. The “hook” statements provided may include other effective methods enhancing the development of growing writers. An effort should be made to explicitly demonstrate the complexity of introductory statements to the thesis for this level of the developing writer. **Note:** In persuasive or argumentative writing, a strong call to action is included in the parting thought.

Hook #1

Some would say: Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family...in another city. But, when you stop and look around, city life can be wonderful for any family.

Hook #2

Be a small-town kid with big city dreams. Or, choose to be a city-kid with a small-town heart.

Hook #3

It can be said that one of the most pleasant things about living in a small town is that everyone, whether rich or poor, liked or disliked, known or unknown, kind or unkind, has a role and place in the community. In the city, as wisely stated by Henry David Thoreau, "Life is millions of people being lonesome together."

Parting Thought #1

Happiness can be found when you live in a small town, but there's no need to look and have hope in finding it in a large city. Life in the big city is always thriving. Give up small-town dreams and join the masses of people and excitement that awaits.

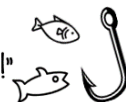
Parting Thought #2

Stop. Smile. Breathe. Life is beautiful in a small town. And because you're in a small town, you can just take it all in.

Parting Thought #3

Come see life in a big city for yourself. Stop and listen, city-life is calling your name.

Beginning to end with "Parting Thoughts!"
Leave the reader wanting more!



Sample Essay

Some would say: Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family...in another city. But, when you stop and look around, city life can be wonderful for any family. If given the choice between the two, without a doubt, city living is superior because it provides invaluable opportunities that small towns can't match to any degree.

Without a doubt, there is no room for boredom because there is always something to do in a big city. Even if you are a person that enjoys the outdoors, city-life offers stunning parks for recreation. It's nearly impossible to find a city that doesn't offer and support beautifully maintained public parks. If indoor comfort is what strikes your mood, movie and fine art theaters are always offering many choices like the newest movie releases, plays, operas, and ballets. After the park or before a show, you can find any type of restaurant you want too. Cultural foods and variety of food choices are amazing in large cities. Basically, it's endless entertainment. When you think of a small town, some have a hard time just keeping a small grocery shelf stocked with fresh produce. There simply is no comparison to the opportunity. None.

To make an even stronger case for city living, what makes it particularly attractive is the people. In a city, you meet infinitely more people. When you consider the amount of people in school, at work, at home, or at places you go within the city, you can imagine how much more of a chance you are afforded to meet new and exciting individuals. The best part is that each person is so different. By the sheer number, you get exposed to various perspectives, walks of life, thoughts, and expressions. With all the variety, a person can't avoid learning new ideologies, beliefs, and principals for living. More people teach you things about life and about the world. City life is broadened view.

City life offers endless places to enjoy with the people who make it great. Happiness can be found when you live in a small town, but there's no need to even look in a large city. Life in the big city is always thriving—just walk out the door to get it. It's calling your name.

Thesis statement

It's better to live in a small town where you can know and love the people and places around you.

Possible Reasons or Arguments Against (Con)	Supporting Details
Comfort of knowing people	close groups and family
	know almost everyone
	everyone cares for you
	in a football game, everyone cheers for you
City people don't realize what they miss	big isn't always better
	don't know what they're missing
	walk by people and don't know names
	go to school where people don't know you

Conclusion

Obviously, it is better to live in a small town where you feel you are loved and cared for beyond the doors of your home.

Strong call to action

Consider selling that condo and move into a nice neighborhood in a small town.

I. Introduction
(hook)
Thesis-Position

It's better to live in a small town where you can know and love the people and places around you.

- II. Body
- MI - Comfort of knowing people
- close groups and family
 - know almost everyone
 - everyone cares for you
 - in a football game, everyone cheers for you

- MI - City people don't realize what they miss
- big isn't always better
 - don't know what they're missing
 - walk by people and don't know names
 - go to school where people don't know you

III. Closing
Thesis-Position and PT - Obviously, it is better to live in a small town where you feel you are loved and cared for beyond the doors of your home.

Strong call to action
Consider selling that condo and move into a nice neighborhood in a small town.

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.



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

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

Thesis or position – Words are meaningless without actions because person's actions show real intention.

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

II. Body

MI – People can say anything

- What you want to hear
- Maybe no intention behind words
- Actions take time and effort
- Results come from actions

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

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

MI – Actions over promises

- Behaviors must match words
- Words alone aren't believable
- Relationship promises
- Trust over time

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

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. Be sure to include a "Call to action."

III. Closing

Thesis-Position and PT – A simple, but popular line to remember is: Words are cheap.

Strong call to action – Commit to defend your words with your actions.

Revision Checklist

Persuasive

Introductory Paragraph	Body Paragraphs			Concluding Paragraph
Topic _____	Main Ideas			Topic _____
Thesis _____ (Choice or Position)	1 st reason _____	2 nd reason _____	3 rd 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	

