

English II Writing Persuasive Prompt

Read the following quotation.

"It's not what you say, it's the things you do, that makes someone feel confident in you."

~Audrey Heller

Think about words and actions.

Write an essay stating your position on which is more important: what a person says or what a person does. Convince 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: Choice

Thesis statement

Sharp words hold great personal meaning to the individual listening. Words, despite all actions and efforts, can be heard long after they are spoken.

| Possible Reasons or Arguments For (Pro) | Supporting Details |
|--|--|
| Hurt feelings | Example of speaking harshly to someone |
| | Attempts to apologize |
| | Difficult to take back |
| | Actions only help a little |
| | May be forgiven, but not forgotten |
| Actions don't erase words | Will be heard over and over |
| | Actions may help but not heal |
| | Years and years |

Conclusion

Spoken words are powerful and the sound lingers in the soul of the listener.

Strong call to action

Be careful and speak mindfully.

I. Introduction
(hook)
Thesis-Position

Sharp words hold great personal meaning to the individual listening. Words, despite all actions and efforts, can be heard long after they are spoken.

II. Body
MI - Hurt feelings

- Example of speaking harshly to someone
- Attempts to apologize
- Difficult to take back
- Actions only help a little
- May be forgiven, but not forgotten

MI - Actions don't erase words

- Will be heard over and over
- Actions may help but not heal
- Years and years

III. Closing

Thesis-Position and PT - Spoken words are powerful and the sound lingers in the soul of the listener.

Call to Action: Be careful and speak mindfully.

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 - Sharp words hold great personal meaning to the individual listening. Words, despite all actions and efforts, can be heard long after they are spoken.

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

II. Body

MI - Hurt feelings

- Example of speaking harshly to someone
- Attempts to apologize
- Difficult to take back
- Actions only help a little
- May be forgiven, but not forgotten

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

MI - Actions don't erase words

- Will be heard over and over
- Actions may help but not heal
- Years and years

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 – Spoken words are powerful and the sound lingers in the soul of the listener.

Call to Action: Be careful and speak mindfully.

"Hook" Your Reader Author's Craft...



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

There is a famous line that states: A tongue has no bones, but it can break a heart.

Hook #2

Be careful with your words; once they are said, they can be only forgiven, but not forgotten.

Hook #3

As stated by Ralph Waldo Emerson, “What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.” In other words, actions speak louder than words.

Parting Thought #1

Words are profound. Hear everything people say today, so you know how to act tomorrow.

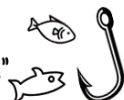
Parting Thought #2

Don't talk. Just act. Don't say. Just prove. Don't just trust words, Trust actions.

Parting Thought #3

Your words mean nothing when your actions are the opposite. Remember, you are what you do, not what you say you'll do.

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



Sample Essay

There is a famous line that states: A tongue has no bones, but it can break a heart. Sharp words hold great personal meaning to the individual listening. Words, despite all actions and efforts, can be heard long after they are spoken.

The impact of words can be immense especially when spoken words cause hurt feelings.

Examples can be seen among friends all the time. A person might say something in anger— with an intention to hurt a friend. These words might be difficult to take back, and a friendship may be ruined forever because a person's feelings are now associated with the words. Although actions may seem to help the disagreement a little, the hurt usually remains. Think back to personal experiences with harsh words and hurt feelings. A spoken word of criticism from jealousy or a message of truth a person is unwilling to confront may eventually be forgiven, but the sting of the words will not ever likely be forgotten. They linger in the mind despite the best efforts of a person to remove them.

No matter the circumstance, actions don't erase words. Once words are spoken they are heard over and over by the intended audience. Whether the audience is one person or many, words that inflict pain will be heard long after they are spoken. Many say that actions speak louder than words, but few deny that they always heal the pain. Why? Because harsh words are heard for years and years, long after the sound of the syllables. Nothing can be done or said to expunge the words once spoken. The truth of the matter is: no action of delivered flowers, special treats, or efforts can remove a wound of words. Words last forever for the person or people on the receiving end. You can't take them back.

Spoken words are powerful and the sound stays in the soul of the listener. Words are profound. Hear everything people say today, so you know how to act tomorrow. Better yet, watch what you say today because others may be hurt past tomorrow.

Complete the Sample Essay

There is a famous line that states: A tongue has no bones, but it can break a heart. Sharp words hold great personal meaning to the individual listening. Words, despite all actions and efforts, can be heard long after they are spoken.

The impact of words can be immense especially when spoken words cause hurt feelings.

No matter the circumstance, actions don't erase words.

Spoken words are powerful and the sound stays in the soul of the listener. Words are profound.

Hear everything people say today, so you know how to act tomorrow. Better yet, watch what you say today because others may be hurt past tomorrow.

Thesis statement

Words are meaningless without actions because a person's actions show real intention.

| Possible Reasons or Arguments Against (Con) | Supporting Details |
|---|---------------------------------|
| People can say anything | What you want to hear |
| | Maybe no intention behind words |
| | Actions take time and effort |
| | Results come from actions |
| Actions over promises | Behaviors must match words |
| | Words alone aren't believable |
| | Relationship promises |
| | Trust over time |

Conclusion

A simple, but popular line to remember is: Words are cheap.

Strong call to action

Commit to defend your words with your actions.

I. Introduction
(hook)
Thesis-Position

Words are meaningless without actions because a person's actions show real intention.

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

MI - Actions over promises

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

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.

Collaborative Interactive Writing Activity

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

- Provide each group a part of the essay.
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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 a person's actions show real intention.

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

II. Body

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

MI – People can say anything

- What you want to hear
- Maybe no intention behind words
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Write a topic sentence with the MI. Then add sentences with the supporting details.

MI – Actions over promises

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

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

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 | |

