

Persuasive Essay Sentence Starters

State the Issue in Your Introduction! After you've grabbed the reader's attention with a strong lead, it is important to state your issue clearly in the introduction of your essay. **This is called the issue statement.** It would be easy to simply write: The issue is _____. This certainly states the issue clearly, but it is also rather boring. Successful authors state the issue in a variety of interesting ways. Below you will find a number of "sentence starters" that can be used to express the issue clearly, in a more interesting way, and that will not alienate a reader holding an alternate point of view.

Issue Statement Sentence Starters

The question then is _____. Should we _____ or _____?

What is the dilemma? _____. Do we _____ or _____?

The issue to grapple with is _____. Here's the controversy: _____.

The problem is _____. We need to decide whether to _____ or _____.

Must we _____ or _____? Would we rather _____ or _____?

Of course, everyone is concerned about _____. We all need to consider _____.

To _____ or to _____, that is the question. _____. The difficulty involves whether to _____ or _____.

It seems we have two options, _____ or _____. Here's the challenge: Do we prefer _____ or _____?

We need to determine if _____. Would you _____ or _____?

It will be important to decide _____. Think about whether you'd like to _____.

The debate is about _____. What's your position? Do we _____ or _____?

Are you for or against _____? How do you feel about _____?

Ponder this: _____ or _____? Let's decide. Do we _____ or do we _____?

The question everyone's asking is, _____? We need to resolve this issue: _____.

If you have been working on SOL-based prompts, look at them and then use these starters to write an issue statement. .

Counterargument Sentence Starters (for use in the counterargument paragraph of the persuasive essay)

Topic Sentence

Introduction of Evidence

1. "Some people may argue..."
2. "A possible concern is..."
3. "A common counterpoint is..."

Evidence

1. "For example, they contend that..."
2. "Those who believe... say that ..."

Discussion of Evidence

1. "That is an understandable concern, however..."
2. "This argument is wrong because..."
3. "Although some people think... others understand..."
4. "The evidence, however, overwhelmingly supports the argument that..."

Example

Thesis: If the government puts as much money behind solar energy as it does behind fossil fuels and ethanol, solar energy will become cost-effective in the short-term as well as the long-term.

Body paragraph for counterargument:

Solar energy is the key to our future. However, some argue that solar energy does have some drawbacks. There is pollution created by the transportation and production of solar panels, the relative expense of panels, and the need for a sunny and non-polluted environment. According to Maggie Koerth-Baker in *National Geographic News*, solar energy is "the most expensive form of electricity among current technologies for new electricity generation, about \$396 per megawatt-hour for PV." Despite the high cost, it is still the only available energy resource that is both renewable and has no carbon footprint at least in its energy conversion process. In addition, government incentives, continued investment, and technological advances are driving down the price of panels, making them more affordable for businesses and individuals.