

NAME

Chapter 7 Writer's Workshop (pp. 169–175)

Persuasive Essay

One writer wrote the persuasive model below. Talk with your classmates about how well the writer convinced you of her argument.

Writing Model

Gardening for Community Needs

Have you ever wondered where your food comes from? Say you ate a tomato at lunch today. That tomato was probably grown on a farm in another state, planted and harvested by a farmer you do not know. The farmer was paid for each tomato he or she sold. Then, the tomatoes were driven in a truck cross-country to a grocery store that is owned by someone else you don't know. By the time that tomato reached you, it had passed through hundreds of hands and collected lots of germs and unhealthy pesticides. If you ask me, I think it is extremely important to know where your food is coming from. The Jilburn City Council needs to make space for a community garden because it would encourage unity in the community, save money, and promote a healthy lifestyle.

First, a community garden is an easy and effective way to encourage community bonding. You probably walk by the same people every day on your way to school, but you don't have any reason to talk to them. If we had a community garden, you would share experiences with other people to work towards a common goal of harvesting fruits and vegetables. So many of my friends live in my neighborhood, but if there were a community-wide project, then I could meet people from other neighborhoods, too. A community garden would also provide a safe place for people to interact. It is important for people from different backgrounds to work together to

Interesting opening that paints a picture for the reader

Thesis with clearly stated opinion

Clear order with transitions

Reason 1: Encourages community bonding

Evidence: Examples and facts

create something. A community garden is exactly the type of thing that unites a community.

For example, when I was eight years old, some people wanted a new playground at the elementary school. Instead of hiring a company to install it, the community came together to build an amazing wooden playground. We not only saved lots of money and materials, but we became the only school on the North Side with a wooden playground. Students from other schools came to play, and I made many new friends this way.

Another reason to have a community garden is to save money. The mayor of Jilburn, Eleanor Markin, is in favor of a community garden. She says, “Not only is a community garden a perfect way to build goodwill between people, but it is extremely economical.” Instead of paying other people to grow our food, we could do it ourselves. The initial cost for clearing out the space and getting materials and tools may seem high, but research shows it really isn’t. We will spend less than two-thirds of what we would spend hiring other people to do this work for us. If we save money this way, we could invest more in other programs.

In addition to making the community more close-knit and saving money, a community garden also promotes healthy eating and a better lifestyle. Food grown in a community garden is very healthy and natural. It is much healthier than fast food, which a lot of people eat because it is cheap. If we had a garden that people in the community were responsible for, then healthy food would be readily available for a fair price. According to Randal Leekhelm, director of the Community Garden Coalition, “When people are connected

Evidence: Anecdote

Reason 2: Saves money

Evidence: Quotation from an expert

Reasonable tone

Reason 3: Promotes a healthy lifestyle

Evidence: Example

Evidence: Quotation from an expert

to their food, it encourages them to eat healthily.” Gardening is a simple and easy way to promote good eating habits.

Also, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention released statistics that say 40% of adults and 23% of children do not get enough exercise. Exercising is a very effective way to stay healthy. Caring for the garden would require a lot of bending, lifting, and shoveling. What better way is there to exercise than working in the garden?

Some people say that after a long day at work or school, they just want to go to a grocery store because it is more convenient and it offers more options. But the food at grocery stores is not always healthy and is often unnatural. For example, you can buy orange juice that contains less than five percent real juice.

The goal of a community garden is to make people more active and aware of what they put into their bodies. If people got into the habit of working in a garden, it would quickly become a favored way to spend their time. Come to Grant Garden on Saturday, October 4. Demand that the city council make space for a community garden. It is important to bring the community together and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Evidence: Facts and statistics

Persuasive technique: Rhetorical question

Counterargument

Response to the counterargument

Call to action