

Name _____

Persuasive Essay: Evaluating Reasons to Support a Conclusion

To write a **persuasive essay**, skilled writers develop conclusions based on reasons and provide evidence to support their conclusions.



Writers of persuasive essays must be able to determine whether statements are facts or opinions. Read the statements below. Next to each one, write *fact* or *opinion*.

1. More than two hundred cars cross Bay Creek Bridge per hour. _____

2. The bridge charges a fifty-cent toll. _____

3. This is a very cheap toll. _____

4. Because the heavy traffic the bridge sustains has weakened it structurally, the bridge is in need of repair. _____

5. The City Planning Commission has proposed raising the toll. _____

6. The City Planning Commission is wrong. _____

7. I would pay a toll to cross Bay Creek Bridge. _____



Imagine you are trying to gather support for a weekend cleanup of a local river. Fill in the facts to support your reasons. The first one has been done for you.

8. Reason 1: The river is dirty.
Fact 1A: Bottles and cans are everywhere.
Fact 1B: _____
- Reason 2: The river is an important water source.
Fact 2A: _____
Fact 2B: _____
- Reason 3: The river supports a delicate balance of plants and animals.
Fact 3A: _____
Fact 3B: _____
- Reason 4: The river is an important source of recreation for the community.
Fact 4A: _____
Fact 4B: _____

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Answer Key

1. fact
2. fact
3. opinion
4. fact
5. fact
6. opinion
7. opinion
8. Answers will vary.

