

Letter to the Editor Take a Stand Persuasive Writing Project

It is important to know how to communicate your ideas, especially when you want to convince someone that you are right!

You might want to persuade someone when you see a problem, want something to change, or when you think you have a helpful idea. Look below for a letter to the editor of *The Flint Journal*; the writer had some ideas to share about driving safely in the snow.

Kids need to know this important skill, too, so this persuasive letter writing "Take-a-Stand" project will give you a chance to persuade others about an idea you have. And not just "others" in our class, but in our community as well. We'll email our final pieces to the editor of *The Flint Journal* and other places; maybe some of the letters will be published!

Here's an outline of the project:

Week 1—Review Core Democratic Values:

Common Good
Diversity
Patriotism
Individual Rights
Equality
Truth
Justice

Week 2—Plan, survey, analyze and draft *Take-a-Stand* persuasive paper

Week 3—Revise and publish *Take-a-Stand* persuasive paper

Directions:

1. **Select a subject** that people argue about. School subjects are ideal because everyone is familiar with them.
2. **Collect data** by surveying at least two different groups that are involved in the subject. Groups can be...students, parents, school staff, boys, girls. The groups should somehow be related to your topic.
3. **Decide your position** and how you will answer the question. Think about how you feel about the issue, what data to use, and how you will prove your ideas. What will you do if the data doesn't match what you think. Not everyone will think like you.

Take it slow when it snows

FLINT JOURNAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

This letter is in regard to "Snowplows, salt trucks can do only so much," [Local News, Feb. 14]

With more than 71 inches of snowfall in Flint already this year, might I suggest that instead of complaining about the job that the Genesee County Road Commission does clearing the roads, that we take responsibility for ourselves by slowing down when the weather is bad?

Drivers thinking they are the most important on the road doesn't help, either. They should slow down and accept that they can't always get where they're going in the time that they've allowed themselves.

Angela G. Lemke
Holly

Letter to the Editor Take a Stand Persuasive Writing Project

4. **Select Core Democratic Value(s)** that match your position. Choose at least one. Make sure that you are using the value in the right way and that it builds your case, not works against you.
5. **Select the data** that matches your position. The data should prove what you are saying, not work against you.
6. **Write your position paper** by including what you think, why you think that way, what Core Democratic Values prove your thoughts, what data you have as proof, and why all this shows that people should believe you.
7. **Publish your letter** by mailing or emailing the letter to the *Flint Journal* or *Grand Blanc News* and also sending the letter to whomever can take action on your suggestion.

Timeline for the Project:

Day	Tasks
1-4	Review Core Democratic Values
5	Finalize subject, plan surveys, write survey questions, plan how to collect data, plan who to survey and when
6	Survey. Analyze data, make graphs
7-8	Plan TAS: select CDVs, data, write a rough draft
9-10	Revise TAS. Double-check CDV and data. Make sure to explain.
11-12	Final draft of position paper