

Year 5 Sample Lesson

Persuasive Writing: Should Schools Ban Mobile Phones?

Lesson Overview

Year Level	Year 5 (Stage 3)
Term / Unit	Term 2 — Persuasion & NAPLAN Writing
Text Type	Persuasive Essay
Duration	60 minutes
Curriculum Link	Australian Curriculum — Literacy / Language / Text Structure & Organisation

Learning Intentions

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- ✓ Identify and apply the TEEL paragraph structure in persuasive writing.
- ✓ Construct a clear thesis statement and maintain a consistent argument.
- ✓ Use rhetorical devices, modality and emotive language purposefully.
- ✓ Plan and draft a persuasive essay under timed conditions.

Warm-Up: Hook & Thesis (10 minutes)

What Makes a Persuasive Opening?

Display two openings on the board. Ask students: which is more persuasive? Why?

Opening A (Weak)	Opening B (Strong — NAPLAN level)
"Mobile phones are used a lot by students. Some people think they should be banned."	"Even though we should be spending time learning, we are wasting it by scrolling through our phones in class."

Discuss: What rhetorical devices appear in Opening B? (Rhetorical question, emotive language, imperative verb, strong thesis.)

Direct Teaching (15 minutes)

The TEEL Paragraph Structure

Teach students to construct powerful body paragraphs using the TEEL framework:

T	Topic Sentence	State your argument clearly.	'Banning mobile phones significantly improves student focus...'
E	Evidence	Provide a fact, statistic or example.	'A 2023 study found concentration improved 27% in phone-free classrooms.'
E	Elaboration	Explain how the evidence supports your argument.	'This demonstrates that without the distraction of notifications...'
L	Link	Connect back to your thesis.	'Clearly, removing phones from schools is a critical step toward...'

Key Persuasive Language Techniques:

Technique	Purpose	Example
Rhetorical Question	Engages reader, implies obvious answer	'How dare we afford to let distractions cost our children their future?'
Emotive Language	Appeals to reader's emotions	'innocent children', 'devastating consequences', 'urgent crisis'
Modality	Shows strength of argument	'must', 'should', 'will' vs 'might', 'could', 'may'
Rule of Three	Creates rhythm and emphasis	'Schools must be safe, focused and productive environments.'
Expert Opinion	Adds credibility	'According to researchers at the University of Sydney...'

Guided Practice (15 minutes)

Model TEEL Paragraph — Read & Annotate

Students read the model paragraph and annotate each TEEL element:

Model TEEL Paragraph — Annotate as You Read
Banning mobile phones from schools is essential for creating environments where every student can thrive academically.

Independent Task — Timed Writing (15 minutes)

Your Turn — Write a Persuasive Essay (NAPLAN-style)

Prompt: 'Schools should ban mobile phones.' Do you agree or disagree?

Planning time: 5 minutes

Writing time: 10 minutes

Your essay must include:

- ✓ A strong opening with a clear thesis
- ✓ At least TWO TEEL body paragraphs
- ✓ At least THREE persuasive language techniques
- ✓ A concluding paragraph that reinforces your position

NAPLAN Tip: Spend 2–3 minutes planning your argument BEFORE writing.

A well-planned piece always outscores an unplanned one.

Wrap-Up & Peer Feedback (5 minutes)

Students swap essays and give one piece of STAR feedback: **Something** they did well + one **Target** for improvement.

Exit Ticket — One Sentence Challenge

Write the most persuasive sentence you can about any topic, using at least TWO techniques from today's lesson. Be