



Y6 Summer 1.1

Write to persuade: Letter



Dear Mr Grey,

I am writing this letter to implore you to dispense with the completely unnecessary burden of completing homework each week. I will detail my reasons below and can only hope that you see sense.

First of all, when children return home each day from school they need a break. I do not mean a quick 10-minute break to get changed and hastily eat a snack before returning to the pressures of more learning; I mean a proper break. In order to fully decompress and recharge ready for another day of relentless learning, children need to have an adequate amount of time to relax. If you factor in the time it takes to travel back and forth to school; the time required for eating and bathing; the time actually spent at school and the fact that children of primary school age should be sleeping for at least 10 hours a day, I calculate that this leaves approximately 2.5 hours to unwind. I should point out that this calculation does not even take into consideration the time that should be dedicated to socialising if we would like children to develop into well-rounded individuals (which I am sure we do).

Furthermore, I am not convinced that homework actually has any impact on academic achievement. Numerous studies have concluded that homework provides no educational advantage for school-aged children and instead leads to undue stress and pressure. A recent study of over 20,000 primary students, conducted by Oxford University, found that there was no marked difference in the overall academic achievement of those students who completed their homework compared to those who did not. Why then are we continuing to purport the myth that homework benefits students? This is a lie.

In addition to this, in our contemporary, 21st century lives we simply do not have the time to dedicate to homework. In modern families both parents often work full-time and children usually attend a variety of after-school clubs, including sports clubs, swimming lessons or general wrap around care. When families finally get home there are a million things still to be done: making dinner, tidying up and catching up as a family. Squeezing more time out of an already packed day in order to complete pointless homework tasks seems, quite frankly, cruel and superfluous.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that you take into consideration all of the points I have raised and make a well-informed decision about the future of homework. If you truly care about the well-being of your students, the right verdict is obvious.

Kind regards,
Ellie Jones

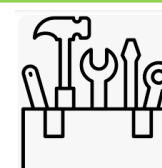
Purpose: To persuade the reader to do something

Key features



Structural:

- Introduction to explain what the letter is about
- Paragraphs: each with a point and then elaboration to explain that point
- A conclusion to sum up your persuasive points



Language:

- Rhetorical questions to speak to the reader: Don't you agree?
- Emotive language to show how passionate you are: implore you
- Facts and statistics to back up your point: numerous studies have shown...
- Second person to talk directly to the reader: you

Writer's toolbox

Modal adverbs

They add extra meaning to modal verbs by showing how likely:
Surely you **can** see the damage that homework does.

Modal adverbs word bank:

Surely Maybe
Certainly Clearly

Punctuation:

Try and use semi-colons to mark complex lists that would already contain commas.
Use hyphens to mark hyphenated words.

Vocabulary:

Implore Dispense
Adequate Decompress
Superfluous Advantage

Recommended reads



These are both books about transition to secondary school