

PERSUASIVE ESSAY FORMULA (SCORE 1-4)

The four ingredients of a four: big cities vs. small cities

1. A SPECIFIC CENTRAL CLAIM THAT EXPANDS ON THE CENTRAL IDEA OF THE PROMPT WITH A CONCESSION:

- **Although** _____, _____ **is better.**
 - **Although** large urban environments provide a diversity of entertainment options, small towns create more opportunities to get to know the people in your community on a more personal level.
- **While** _____, _____ **is better.**
 - **While** small towns have less traffic congestion, large urban center benefit from large highways **because** they stimulate trade and the economy.
- _____; **however,** _____ **is better.**
 - Growing metropolitan centers have a wide variety of education options, from private to public to charter; **however,** classroom sizes and teacher-to-student ratios are small in towns and small cities.
- _____. **Conversely,** _____ **is better.**
 - Small municipalities allow for more liberty and flexibility when it comes to private property. **Conversely,** large cities keep their neighborhoods beautiful by requiring higher standards of maintenance in order to preserve the value of private property.
- **Indeed,** _____; **nevertheless,** _____ **is better.**
 - **Indeed,** big inner cities have parks and places for family recreation; **nevertheless,** the large open fields of small Texan towns give citizens more opportunities for citizens to connect with nature at its purest form.

2. AN ORGANIZED STRUCTURE:

- Use **specific topic sentences** that include a **specific concession**.
 - **Although** small towns and cities have smaller classroom sizes, large cities provide more choice in choice in education. For example, in Houston, TX the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts...
- **Don't use elementary transitions;** just state your supportive claim (above)
 - To begin with
 - First,
 - At the beginning,
 - First of all

3. SPECIFIC AND CREATIVE IDEAS, EXAMPLES, AND EXPLANATIONS:

- **Transitions** which introduce evidence:
 - For example,
 - For instance,
 - Specifically,
 - Such is the case in,
- **Examples** which you can explain with depth and confidence **WITH analysis** that explicitly explains your example
 - **Transitions** that indicate analysis:
 - This demonstrates that
 - This suggests that
 - Therefore,
 - As a result
- Even in large cities, specialized schools can emerge to personalize learning. **For example,** in Houston, Texas a visual and performing arts public high school serves about 725 students who are interested in mixing their education with a serious study of one of five art areas. Students can study a plethora of art focuses from studying the Saxophone in the Music Department to fine-tuning your skills working with clay in the Visual Art Department. **Therefore,** even though Houston is a big city, the school district has found ways to personalize learning so that students can engage and become familiar with specific topics. Individualization and the worth of the personal perspective can be preserved in a big city.

4. CALL TO ACTION WITH A CONCESSION:

- **Re-phrase claim with a concession** (without being repetitive)
 - **Although** _____, _____ **is better.**
- Take the reader **to the future** and come back to your **opening**.
 - Moving forward,
 - In the future

SINGLE SHORT ANSWER FORMULA (0-3)

1. A specific claim that

- a. Addresses the reading (either by **title** or by **author's last name and genre**)
- b. Takes a position **directly answering the question**
 - i. How would you describe a specific character?
 - ii. How would you describe the speaker's attitude?
 - iii. How does the author feel about _____?
 - iv. What does the _____ symbolize?
 - v. How does the writer's approach to the topic make it more accessible to the reader

2. Evidence that

- a. Multiple **alligator quotes** from the **passage** that are **blended**
 - i. **Transitions** which introduce evidence:
 - For example,
 - For instance,
 - Specifically,
 - Such is the case in,
 - ii. **Specifically** supports your position

3. A synthesizes claim that

- a. **Re-phrases your position** without changing the argument
- b. the **Expands** observation

CROSS-OVER SHORT ANSWER FORMULA (0-3)

1. A specific claim that

- a. Addresses the **readings** (either by **title** or by **author's last name and genre**)
 - i. Both in "Memories of New York City Snow" and "Golden Year" nature symbolizes...
 - ii. Both in Hijuelos's excerpt and Teper's short story nature symbolizes...
- b. addresses the **idea of the prompt** ("nature")
- c. **your idea/claim** ("connects family members through memories").

2. Evidence that

- a. Multiple **alligator quotes** for **both passages** that are **blended** support both
 - i. the **idea of the prompt**
 - ii. and **your own idea**.
 - iii. This means that **four alligator phrases** should do it!
- b. A **transition** between both passages
 - i. For comparing:
 - Similarly,
 - Likewise,
 - In comparison,
 - Comparatively,
 - Such is the case in,
 - In addition,
 - ii. For contrasting:
 - Conversely,
 - In contrast,
 - On the other hand,
 - On the contrary,
 - Different from
 - However,

3. A synthesized claim that

- a. **Re-phrases your claim** (without changing the idea) the:
 - i. Idea of the **prompt**
 - ii. **Your claim**
- b. And **breaks down the idea of the prompt into two parts** once more
 - i. In both "Memories of New York City Snow" and "Golden Year" nature transports characters back to a sense of home both **through the white snow** and the **autumn grove**.