At a Glance

- Writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper
- Presenting a proposal to school officials
- Presenting an issue in a credible and logical way

Differentiated Instruction: Lesson 2
For struggling students, provide suggested topics to help them get started.

LESSON 1 SUPPORT FOR READING

Step-by-Step Strategy

1. Ask students to list examples of an opinion taken from a recent reading selection.

2. Choose one student’s opinion to use in this exercise. As a group, draft an opinion statement about the issue and enter the statement in the graphic organizer.

3. Have students list at least three reasons to support the opinion. Record these reasons in the graphic organizer.

4. Next, ask volunteers to list evidence supporting each reason. Enter this information in the graphic organizer.

5. At the end of the group discussion, ask students to write a one- to two-sentence summary of the issue, reasons, and supporting evidence.

LESSON 2 SUPPORT FOR WRITING

Step-by-Step Strategy

1. Ask students to write a persuasive letter about a school policy or practice they would like to see changed.

2. Have students identify their audience (school board, administration, etc.). Tell them to keep this audience in mind as they write their letter.

3. Conduct a brainstorming session in which students suggest a topic, reasons, and supporting evidence. Then, have students complete their own graphic organizers about the issue they chose.

4. Tell them to use the graphic organizer as an outline for writing their letter.

5. Give them the following format for their assignment.
   - Begin by telling your audience about the issue and explaining your opinion statement.
   - Give reasons and supporting evidence for your opinion.
   - Restate your views and summarize why you think changes should be made.