

Part D

Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay

In this portion of the AP® Spanish Language and Culture Examination, you will be tested on your ability to read a print selection that presents one side of an issue, listen to an audio selection that presents a different viewpoint, and analyze the content of a visual such as a graph or table that provides data related to the issue. You will then write a persuasive essay that synthesizes information from all three sources in order to present your own point of view. The content of these sources relates to the curricular themes as set forth in the Curriculum Framework for the AP® Spanish Language and Culture Examination.

You will begin this portion of the exam with six minutes to read the essay topic and the printed source. After you read, you will hear the audio portion twice and you may take notes while you listen. After listening, you will have 40 minutes to write your essay. In your essay, you must choose a position and use the sources to persuade the reader that your point of view is the correct one.

Because this section of the AP® exam emphasizes the honing of your reading, listening, and writing skills, take the time to review your reading strategies (Part A, pp. 2–4) and listening strategies (Part B-2, pp. 163–164), as well as the writing strategies below. (You may also want to review some of the writing strategies presented in Part C, Interpersonal Writing: E-mail Response, pp. 189–191.)

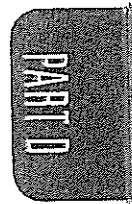
Strategies

1. **Become familiar with formats for persuasive essays.** There are many ways to write a persuasive essay. As you begin to write this type of essay, it may be a good idea to follow a standard format at first. As you become more at ease with your writing, you should try to be creative with the organization of your essay as long as you make sure that:
 - your thesis is clearly stated,
 - you present arguments to support your thesis,
 - you present specific examples and details as evidence to corroborate your argument.

Before you start writing, you may want to read editorials that appear in the editorial section of Spanish-language newspapers online. Since your purpose in writing a persuasive essay is to convince your audience of a particular viewpoint, these editorials offer excellent examples of persuasion.

Here is one standard way of organizing a persuasive essay.

- **First paragraph:** State your opinion, which will become the thesis of your essay. Make sure that you clearly state your views and beliefs about the topic while enticing your audience to read more. Do not try to introduce too much information at this stage.
- **Second, third, and fourth paragraphs (as needed):** Present arguments that validate and substantiate your opinion. Give specific examples and facts that support your argument. Depending on the number of examples and fact you have, you can vary the number of paragraphs accordingly.
- **Final paragraph:** Summarize your ideas by arriving at a conclusion or by leaving a final question or questions in the reader's mind. Go back and read the first paragraph of your essay again to see if you have accomplished the task or answered the question you presented there. Make sure that you summarize quickly the main ideas you stated without using the same wording as in the first paragraph.



—Have you checked...

- ...the agreement of verbs and subjects?
- ...the agreement of adjectives and nouns?
- ...the use of *ser* and *estar*?
- ...the use of *por* and *para*?
- ...the use of the indicative and subjunctive moods?
- ...the use of the imperfect and preterite tenses?
- ...the use of the personal *a*?
- ...the sequence of tenses in the subjunctive?
- ...the use of accents, capital letters, and punctuation?

—Do not count words. You will be wasting time because the instructions do not ask you for a definite number of words. Instead, budget your time so that you can thoroughly complete the task and allow some time to go over your work.

3. **Memorize words and phrases from Appendices B and G.** The terms in Appendix B are organized to help you with the various sections and tasks for the persuasive essay (such as presenting a thesis, citing sources, making comparisons, etc.). Those in Appendix G provide words you can use to make transitions and connect ideas. Build your vocabulary with items from these lists. Knowing them will make it easier for you to write smoothly and efficiently without having to work around too much unknown vocabulary. Increasing your “word power” is a powerful way to enhance your written (and oral) presentational skills.
4. **Learn how your work will be evaluated.** Become familiar with how your teacher scores the essay and/or the scoring guidelines that will be used to evaluate this part of the exam. This will allow you to know beforehand what is expected of you. If your teacher gives you a score for an essay, go back to the scoring guidelines and determine why you received that score. This will also help you to improve in those areas in which you may be lacking the skills you need to succeed in this task.

The following practice activities (pp. 220–252) are arranged in order of increasing difficulty and are designed to give you practice in using print and audio selections as the basis of writing a persuasive essay.

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