

## Writing ■ Respond to a prompt.

Once you have answered the STRAP questions and planned your response with a graphic organizer, you can begin writing.

### Sample Persuasive Prompt

Your school board is considering funding an after-school student center, but some board members feel it is a waste of funds. Write a letter to the board arguing for or against the center, explaining the benefits it will provide or the problems it could create for students, parents, and the community.

### Try It!

Analyze the above prompt using the STRAP questions. Be sure to write your answers out before proceeding.

### Sample Response

#### Beginning

The beginning paragraph states the opinion (underlined).

Dear School Board Members:

*If students are not involved in after-school activities or do not have a job, they may face long afternoons after the final bell rings. Many parents work until 5:00 or later in the evening. Students with time on their hands often look for something to do. Without guidance, they often get into trouble. At the very least, they might just go home and flop in front of the TV. An after-school teen center could create a positive environment for teens.*

*A teen center provides a supervised place for students. In a teen center, adults are always available to make sure nothing inappropriate happens. Students can be with friends in a safe, supervised atmosphere.*

#### Middle

Each middle paragraph presents a main supporting point.

*A properly equipped teen center offers a positive place for students, lots of activities, and healthy snacks. Students are encouraged to engage in physical activity. Sports are usually part of a center as well. With a few simple pieces of equipment, students can engage in activities such as table tennis, weight training, or aerobics. If the center has space*

outside, a basketball hoop or volleyball court encourages physical activity in good weather. An indoor gym could give students a place to be active even in bad weather.

The teen center could offer homework help. Volunteers could provide assistance. A computer lab supervised by an adult would help students do research, check e-mail, and have some fun. This environment could encourage students to do their homework.

Some people might argue that the district can't afford such a facility, but there are ways to make an expensive dream an affordable reality. For one thing, the center could sell snacks and juices to help with expenses. The upper-class students could volunteer to help younger students with class work, earning volunteer service hours for their efforts. Local businesspeople might be willing to mentor students in different areas, working with them at the center. Another resource might be parents. Service organizations could donate materials to help support such a worthy community project. Of course, fund-raisers could be held to support the center.

I urge all the school board members to consider the importance of a teen center. The youth of today are the parents and citizens of tomorrow. Through a teen center that offers safe, supervised activities and homework tutoring, you could show us how a community can work together for the betterment of all.

Sincerely,  
Alia Santos

### Concession

The writer addresses a possible objection.

### Ending

The ending offers a final plea and summarizes the argument.



**Practice responding to a persuasive prompt.** Review the prompt you chose on page 249, your answers to the STRAP questions, and your graphic organizer. Then write a response to the prompt in the amount of time your teacher gives you.

