

DAY 01





Environmental Stewardship: *Using your voice to make waves*

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Journal Prompt

- What is something in your community or environment that you'd like to change for the better? Why?
- What are some small actions you can make at home or at school to make the environment a better place?
- Why should we care for our environment?



The background is a solid light green color. In the top left and top right corners, there are decorative green vines with leaves and small pink flowers. In the center, there is a small white cloud with a single green leaf floating next to it. At the bottom, there are more white clouds and green foliage. A dark green rectangular box is centered in the middle of the image, containing the text.

**What does Environmental
Stewardship mean to you?**



Environmental Stewardship Is...

The responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices to enhance ecosystem resilience and human well-being.

Similar concepts include conservation, sustainability, and environmental justice.

Environmental justice refers to the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in Federal activities that affect human health and the environment to:

- Protect people from adverse human health and environmental impacts and hazards.
 - Give people equal access to a healthy and sustainable environment in which to live, play, work, and grow.
- 

What caused the need for environmental
stewardship/justice?

What is
Environmental Justice



Quick Learner

Duke

What are examples of environmental injustice?

Love Canal, New York

In the 1940s, a chemical company disposed of toxic waste in an abandoned canal that was later sold to the local school board. By 1970, residents began experiencing alarming health hazards and it was **up to everyday people to stand up for their town and demand action**. This outcry led to the creation of the **Superfund** program.

What is Superfund?

Superfund, or the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), is a U.S. law that funds the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up hazardous waste sites and holds the responsible parties accountable.

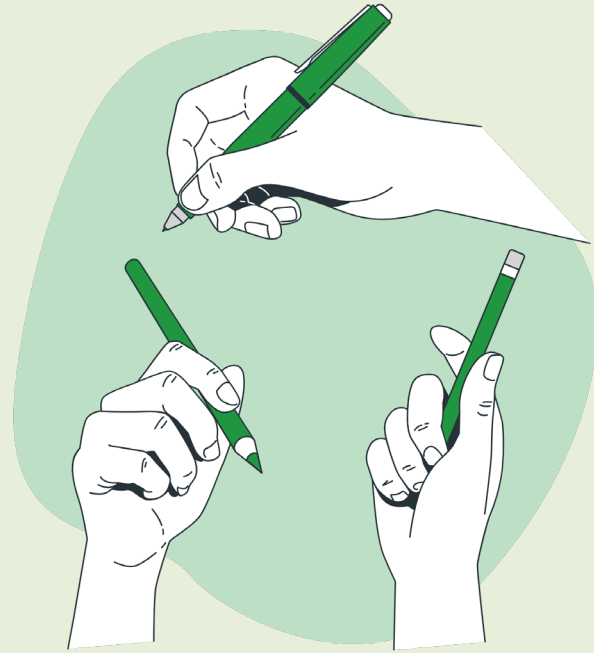


Environmental Injustice in Our Own Backyard



What can we do?

- We can inform ourselves about injustices in our communities and how we can be better stewards to our environment.
- We can donate our time and energy to organizations helping to create change.
- We can use our voices, just like those at Love Canal, to spread awareness and spark change through **WRITING!**



Stewardship Through Persuasive Writing

Persuasive writing is writing that tries to convince a reader to do something or to believe what you believe about a certain topic.

It takes a position for or against something.

Used to:

- Support a cause
- Urge people to action
- Stir up sympathy
- Make a change

What are examples of topics that fit in the persuasive writing format?



Persuasive Essay Format



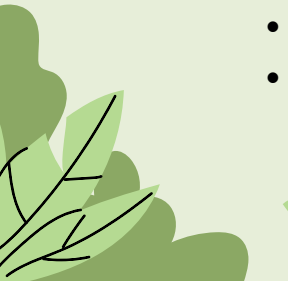
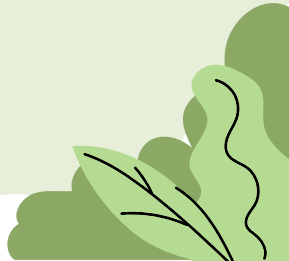
Introduction

- Hook → anecdote, quotation, fact/statistic
- Background
- Thesis statement

Body

- Explain argument in 3-4 paragraphs with three separate arguments and a counter argument (built from your thesis statement)

Conclusion

- Summarize argument
 - End with a call-to-action (CTA)
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- 
- 



Persuasive Essay Steps:

1. Identify your audience

- Who will read your writing?

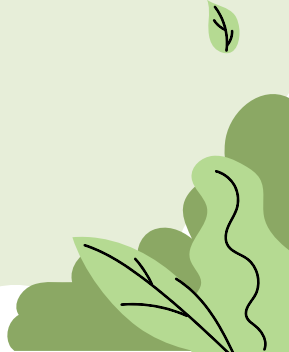
2. Pick a side

- State your position → thesis statement

3. Do your research

- Provide examples and evidence with cited sources to support your claims.

4. Write, revise, and review your essay





What makes evidence convincing?

Evidence provides proof and establishes your credibility as a speaker/writer. Therefore, your evidence must be:

- ☐ Relevant
 - ☐ Credible
 - ☐ Specific
 - ☐ Varied
 - ☐ Cited
- 
- 



Research Practice

Break up into groups and practice researching a topic, writing a thesis statement, and finding a strong piece of evidence to support your claim.

Research Areas:

- Water Pollution
 - Deforestation
 - Endangered Species
 - Air Pollution
 - Recycling
 - Climate Change
 - Invasive Species
 - Renewable Energy
 - Food Waste
- 
- 



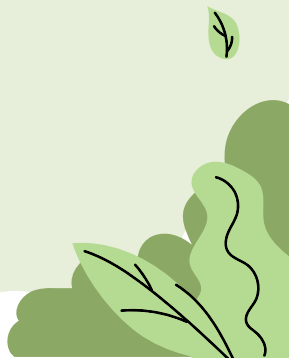
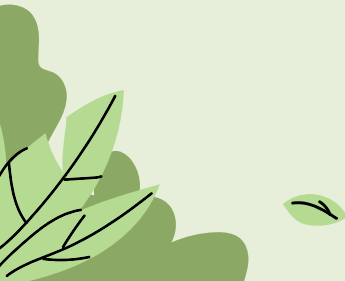
Brainstorm Environmental Issues

What environmental issues in Alabama are you passionate about?

What examples of environmental injustice do you know about?

What are ways that we can become better environmental stewards?

Brainstorm three topics for your essay.

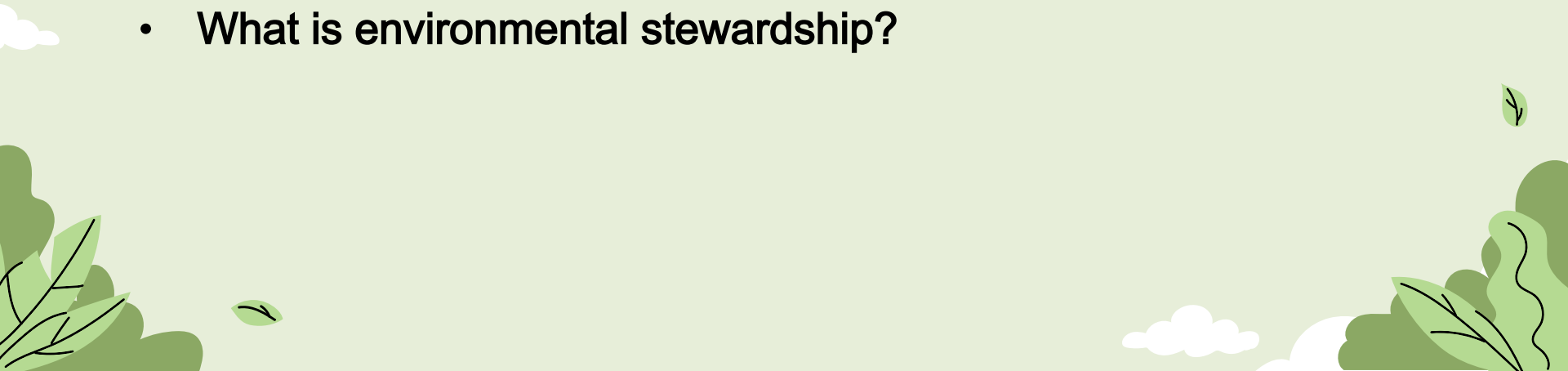


DAY 02





Review From Yesterday:

- What is a persuasive essay?
 - What makes a strong argument?
 - What is environmental stewardship?
- 

How to find credible sources

– CARP Method





How to find credible sources

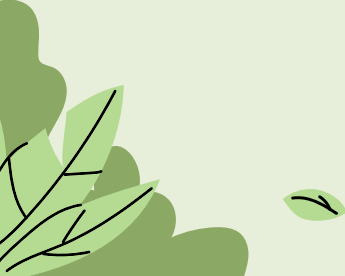
– CARP Method



Current?
Author?
Reliable?
Purpose?

A source must pass ALL of these tests
to be deemed credible and trustworthy.

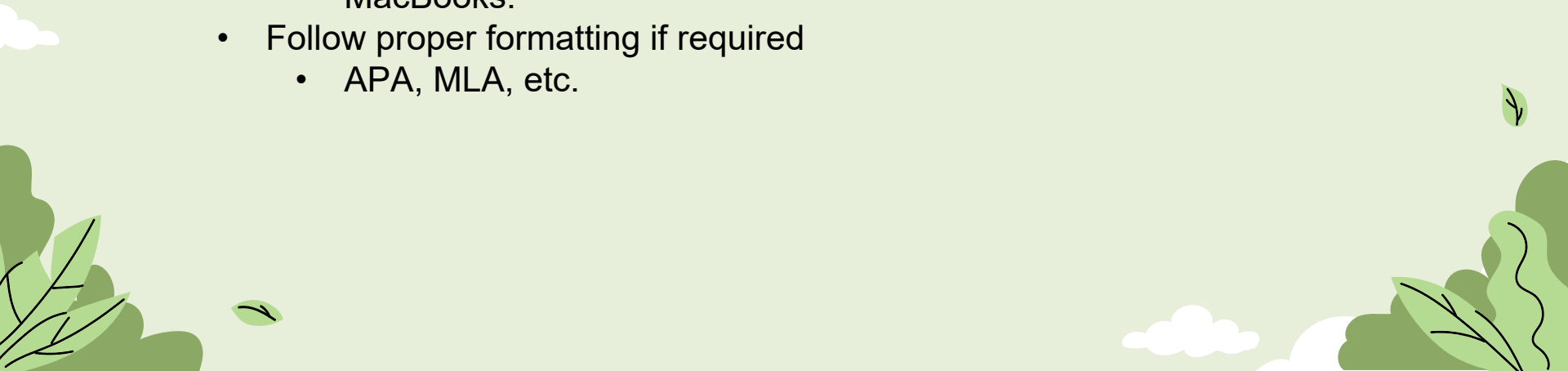
Only then can we use a source's
evidence in our essays.





How to cite evidence

Citing Evidence within your paper:

- Quote or Paraphrase your selection
 - Make it clear where it came from
 - “According to a New York Times article by Steve Jobs in 2016, apples come in many different varieties from red delicious to MacBooks.”
 - Follow proper formatting if required
 - APA, MLA, etc.
- 



Practice Persuasive Outline

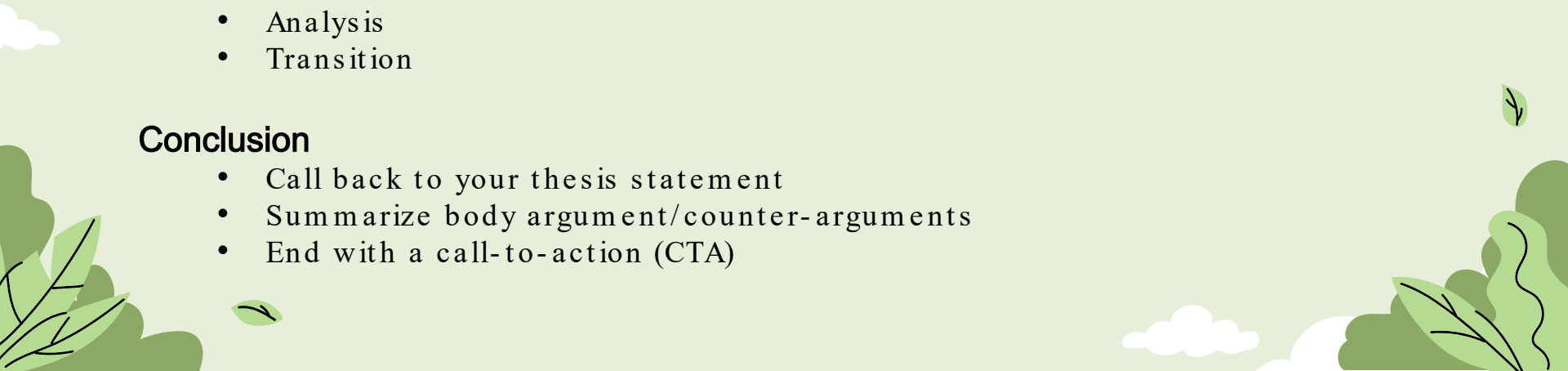
Introduction

- Hook → anecdote, quotation, fact/statistic
- Background
- Thesis statement

Body 1, 2, & 3

- Topic Sentence
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Transition

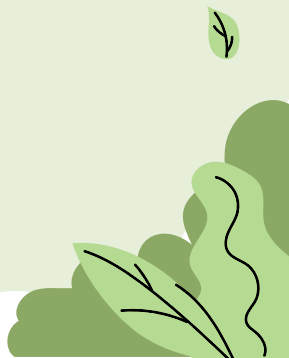
Conclusion

- Call back to your thesis statement
 - Summarize body argument/counter-arguments
 - End with a call-to-action (CTA)
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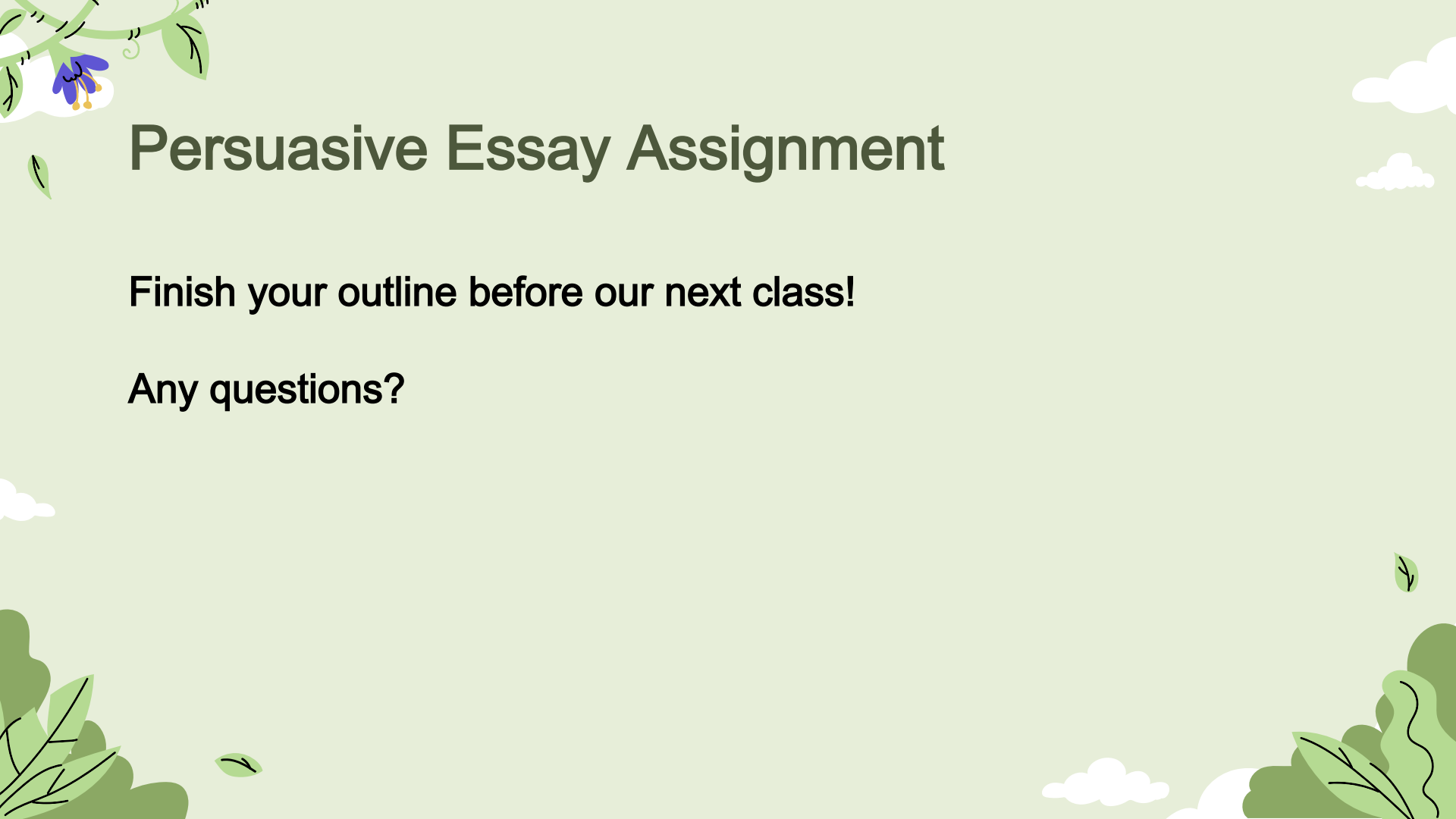
Persuasive Essay Assignment

Write a persuasive essay to convince people to care and support your chosen environmental issue in Alabama.

- Choose essay topic
 - Begin research
 - Build outline
 - Find supporting evidence – 2 per paragraph
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Persuasive Essay Assignment Rubric

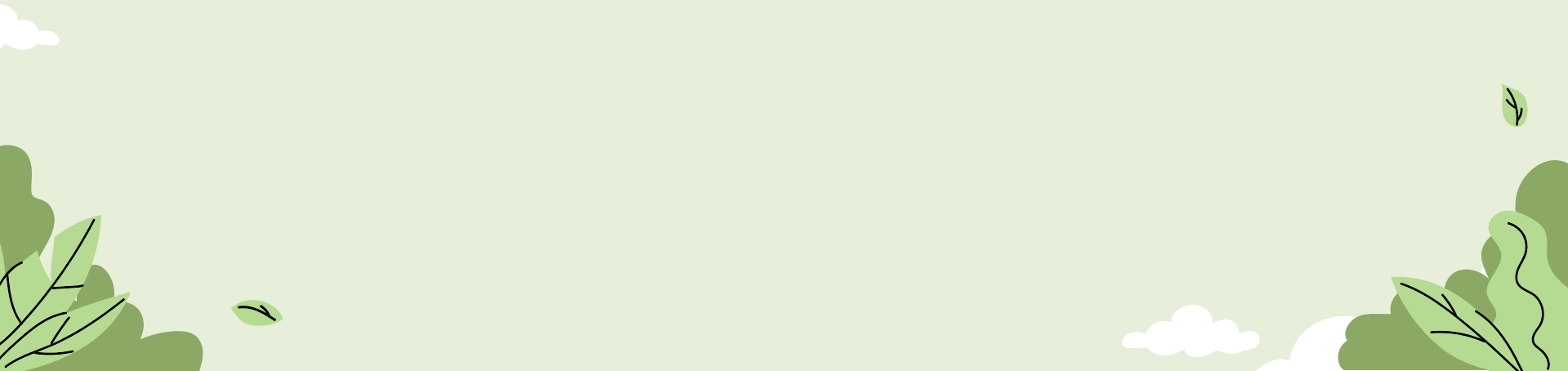
Criteria	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point
Content Accuracy	Thoroughly researched local environmental issue with precise, current data and specific community impact	Includes basic research with some details about the environmental problem	Minimal research; vague or generalized information about the issue
Persuasive Elements	Clearly presents 2-3 compelling, actionable steps with strong evidence and community-specific solutions	Provides 1-2 actionable steps with limited supporting evidence	Lacks clear or practical action steps
Communication Format	Professionally executed chosen format (article/video/skit) with clear, engaging presentation and excellent organization	Somewhat organized presentation with moderate clarity	Disorganized or confusing presentation
Community Impact Explanation	Deeply analyzes environmental issue's specific consequences for local residents, including health, economic, and social implications	Provides basic explanation of community impact	Minimal or superficial discussion of community effects
Visual/Verbal Presentation	Highly professional, creative approach with strong visual or verbal communication techniques	Adequate presentation with some engaging elements	Weak presentation with limited audience engagement
Source Documentation	Cites 3+ credible local sources with proper attribution and demonstrates advanced research skills	Includes 1-2 sources with basic documentation	Lacks proper source citation



Persuasive Essay Assignment

Finish your outline before our next class!

Any questions?



DAY 03





Review and Discussion

What is the most important part of a persuasive essay?

How do we find trustworthy sources and what is the CARP method?

What environmental stewardship topics will you be writing about?





How to write a strong thesis statement



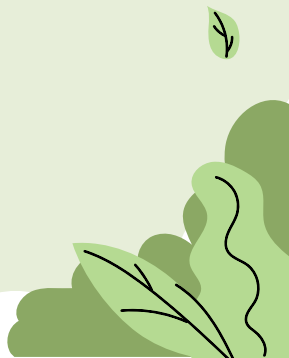
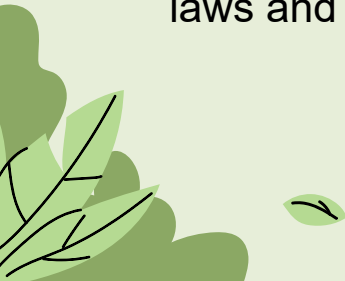
Take a clear position

- The thesis should clearly state your stance on your chosen issue. Avoid being too vague or neutral but keep your statement to a concise, single sentence.

Be specific

- A thesis should be narrow and specific, focusing on a single issue of a topic but allows it to be developed into your body paragraphs topic sentences.

Example: “The Love Canal disaster shows how ignoring environmental laws and dumping toxic waste can harm communities and public health.”



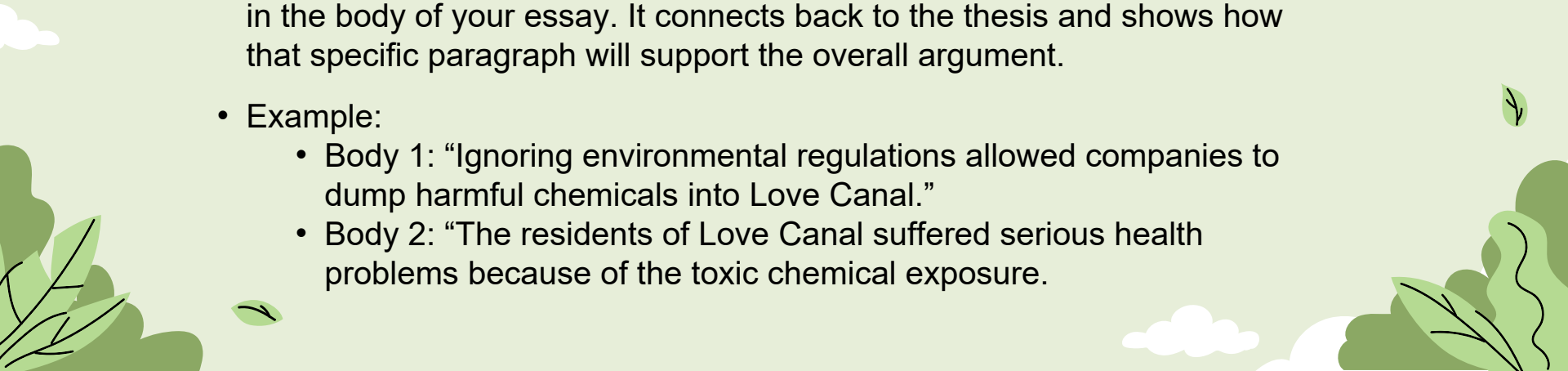


Difference between thesis and topic sentences

Thesis Statement:

- The thesis statement is the main argument or claim of your entire essay and appears at the end of your introduction paragraph.

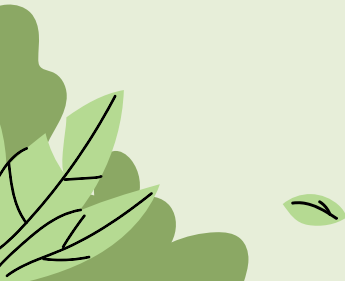
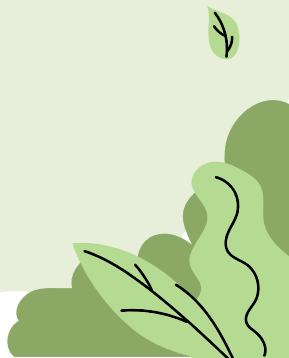
Topic Sentence:

- A topic sentence introduces the main idea or point of a single paragraph in the body of your essay. It connects back to the thesis and shows how that specific paragraph will support the overall argument.
 - Example:
 - Body 1: “Ignoring environmental regulations allowed companies to dump harmful chemicals into Love Canal.”
 - Body 2: “The residents of Love Canal suffered serious health problems because of the toxic chemical exposure.”
- 



Continue Persuasive Essay Assignment

Write a persuasive essay to convince people to care and support your chosen environmental issue in Alabama.

- Revise and finalize outline
 - Create first draft of your essay
 - Pair with another group to perform a peer review
 - Implement feedback
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What makes a quality peer review?

1. Clear and constructive feedback

What can your peer do better and what did they do well?

2. Focus on content and structure

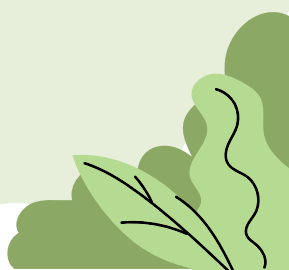
Was their essay easy to read and follow the outline structure?

3. Check for clarity

Look out for run - on sentences or confusing evidence.

4. Be respectful and supportive

Build each other up and focus on how they can improve.



DAY 04



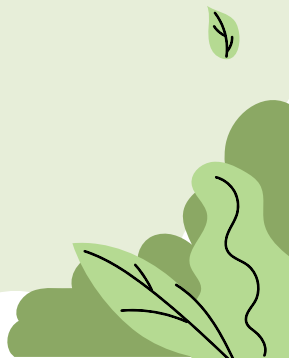


Review and Discussion

What is the strongest part of your essay?

What changes do you need to make?

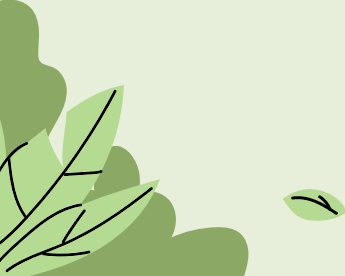
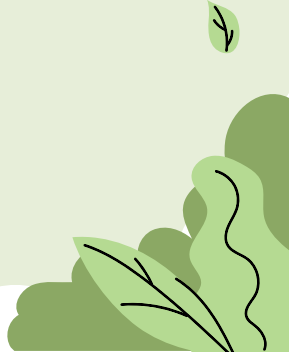
How can you make your argument stronger?





Finish Persuasive Essay Assignment

Write a persuasive essay to convince people to care and support your chosen environmental issue in Alabama.

- Revise and finalize essay
 - Practice presenting
 - Present to the class!
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It's time to use your voice to
make waves!

PRESENTATIONS





Final Discussion Wrap -up

What did your classmates do well in their presentations?

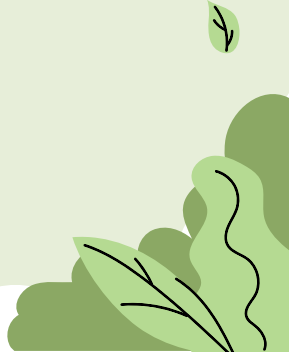
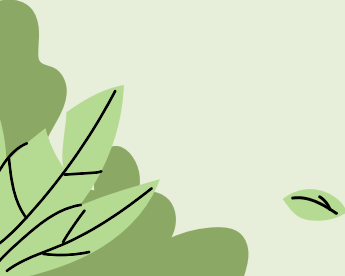
What did you learn about environmental stewardship/justice this week?

How confident do you feel about writing persuasive essays?



What changes, if any, would you make to your essay?

How can you make an impact on your local environment?



**Thank you *for*
making waves in
our community
*with us!***

