

What It Looks Like – Persuasive Essay

Use these 'before' and 'after' student writing samples to show the impact of these techniques and to model what you expect from your students.

Year 4 Writing Sample

Topic: Our school needs an upgrade

Before

In conclusion, our school needs an upgrade for all the reasons I have mentioned. Otherwise our school is going to get worse and worse. You don't want to see that. We want to see a change!

This conclusion ends with a call to action but it lacks impact. The conclusion is the final chance to persuade the reader, so don't waste it.

After

For years, the students at Sunnydale Primary have put up with a second-rate playground. It is time we spoke up or things will just get worse and worse. When people visit Sunnydale, they expect to see young, energetic, happy children. If you don't upgrade the playground soon, people will see an army of tired, bored and unhappy children. You don't want to see that. We want to see a change! Time to bust open the shoebox and give the students at Sunnydale the playground they deserve.

(George and Mackenzie, Year 4)

This conclusion is much more persuasive. It restates the writers' case without just summarising the reasons covered in the body paragraphs.

Comparing and contrasting what students will be like with and without the upgrade is very persuasive. Using 'The Rule of Three' when describing the students emphasises the point.

Linking to the introduction by reusing the shoebox reference from the Sizzling Start (see page 66) wraps up the text in a satisfying way that helps convince the reader.

