



*Lesson: Persuasive Essays*

**STANDARDS: California**

2.4 Write [persuasive letters](#) or compositions:

- a. State a clear position in support of a proposal.
- b. Support a position with relevant evidence.
- c. Follow a simple organizational pattern.
- d. Address reader concerns.

## Literacy: Using Theater to Discuss the Art of Persuasion

**Motivation:** Ask students to think about a time when someone successfully persuaded them to do something, or when they successfully persuaded someone else to do something. What techniques worked? What did not work? What are some [persuasive techniques](#) students always use?

**Group Activity:** Watch “The Story” and “The Performance” in Hector Elizondo’s [Antigone](#) (in *Theater with Hector Elizondo*). Ask students to identify the conflict. Who is trying to persuade who? What is each character trying to do to convince the other? If possible, view any of the clips from *Inside Hector’s Head*. Discuss how Mr. Elizondo decided to portray [Haemon](#). How do these reflect persuasive techniques? Discuss other characters in the play, like [Creon](#) and [Antigone](#). What were they trying to persuade others to do? What arguments did they probably use?

**Independent Activity:** Have students pick characters and conflicts and [write persuasive letters](#). Make sure students follow letter writing conventions, and incorporate information they have learned about the play from viewing the e-presentation.