

## Activity: Persuasive Essay - "Can People Truly Change?"

**Objective:** Students will practice writing a persuasive essay, focusing on constructing a clear argument, supporting it with evidence, and organizing their writing effectively.

**Prompt:** In *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a significant transformation. Do you believe that people can truly change, or do you think people are fundamentally who they are? Write a persuasive essay arguing your position. Use examples from the play and your own experiences or observations to support your argument.

### Instructions:

- 1. Introduce the Prompt:**
  - Read the essay prompt aloud and ensure students understand the task: to take a position (either *yes, people can change* or *no, people cannot truly change*).
- 2. Brainstorm Arguments:**
  - Provide a T-chart for students to list reasons *for* and *against* the idea that people can change.
  - Encourage them to pull examples from the play, such as Scrooge's transformation, and connect them to real-life observations.
- 3. Mini-Lesson:**
  - Review the structure of a persuasive essay:
    - **Introduction:** Include a hook, background on the topic, and a clear thesis statement.
    - **Body Paragraphs:** Each paragraph should focus on one reason supporting their argument, with textual evidence or real-life examples.
    - **Counterargument:** Address an opposing view and explain why it is less convincing.
    - **Conclusion:** Restate the thesis and call to action or closing thought.
- 4. Write the Essay:**
  - Students draft their essays, ensuring they follow the structure outlined.
- 5. Peer Review:**
  - Students exchange essays to review:
    - Clarity of thesis.
    - Strength of supporting evidence.
    - Organization and transitions.
  - Use a checklist to guide feedback.
- 6. Revise and Submit:**
  - Students revise their essays based on peer and teacher feedback before submitting the final version.

**Extension Activity:** Students can turn their essays into short speeches, presenting their arguments to the class. This can help build confidence and reinforce their understanding of persuasive techniques.

### Skills Practiced:

- Writing a clear thesis.
- Supporting an argument with evidence.

- Addressing counterarguments.
- Organizing ideas logically.