

Persuasive Writing Worksheet: "Do People Really Change?"

Introduction to the Task

You have read the article titled "**Do People Really Change?**" which discusses how people's personalities can change as they grow older. The article talks about five major traits that psychologists use to understand personality: **openness to experience, conscientiousness, extroversion, agreeableness, and emotional stability**. While some traits may stay the same, the article argues that people can still change and grow, especially in terms of emotional stability, conscientiousness, and agreeableness.

In this essay, you will choose a side of the argument and persuade your reader that you agree with either the article's point of view (that people do change as they grow older) or the opposite point of view (that people do not change). You will use examples and evidence from the article and your own life to support your opinion.

Step 1: Read the Article and Review Key Points

- **Five Traits That Influence Personality:**

1. **Openness to Experience** – Willingness to try new things.
2. **Conscientiousness** – How responsible and careful someone is.
3. **Extroversion** – How outgoing or social someone is.
4. **Agreeableness** – How friendly and cooperative someone is.
5. **Emotional Stability** – How calm and steady someone is.

- **Main Argument of the Article:**

Even though basic personality traits like extroversion and agreeableness may not change, people do grow and mature. They become more emotionally stable, more responsible (conscientious), and more agreeable with age. These changes are part of maturity.

Step 2: Your Task

You will write a persuasive essay where you choose **either**:

- **Agree with the article:** People do change as they grow older (even if their basic traits stay the same).
- **Disagree with the article:** People do not change, and their personality stays the same as they age.

Step 3: Outline Your Essay

Use the space below to plan your essay. Follow the structure suggested for the HiSET format:

Paragraph I: Introduction (4 sentences)

1. **State the Issue:** What is the main issue discussed in the article? (Example: Do people change as they grow older?)
2. **Your Opinion (P.O.V.):** Do you agree with the article, or do you disagree? Explain your choice.
3. **Name the Source and Author:** If the author's name is available, mention it.
 - *Example: "In the article 'Do People Really Change?' by [author], the idea of change in personality is explored."*

Paragraph II: Opposite Point of View (3-4 sentences)

- Briefly explain what people who disagree with the article might say. (You do not need to support this view, just acknowledge it.)
- Example: "Some might argue that people do not change, and that their personality traits are set for life."

Paragraph III: Your Point of View (Evidence-based) (5-6 sentences)

- Use evidence from the article to support your opinion.
 - *Example: "The article states that people become more emotionally stable as they grow older, which shows that people can change."*
- You may include quotes from the article or refer to specific examples that support your point of view.

Paragraph IV: Your Point of View (Real-life experience-based) (5-6 sentences)

- Use real-life examples or experiences to support your point of view.
 - *Example: "In my own life, I have noticed how my friends became more responsible and patient as they got older."*
- If you do not have a personal example, think of someone you know, or describe a situation you've seen or heard about.

Paragraph V: Conclusion (3-4 sentences)

- Restate the issue (Do people really change?) and your point of view.
- Summarize the key reasons why you believe your opinion is correct.
 - *Example: "In conclusion, I believe that people do change as they grow older because they become more stable and responsible, just like the article suggests."*