CTJan27 Online Year 6 - Mastering Brainstorming Techniques for Persuasive Writing

1. Free Association (Freewriting/Brain Dumping) 🍃	(1 point)
Prompt: "Should schools ban junk food in the cafeteria?"	
Task: Spend 5 minutes writing every thought that comes to your mind about this topic. Don't stop or edit yourself—just let the ideas flow.	
Explanation:	
ample Answer (Brain Dump):	
• Junk food tastes good but unhealthy.	
Makes kids tired in class.	
• Energy drinks = hyper then crash.	
School should promote healthy lifestyle.	
• Some kids rely on cafeteria food, no choice at home.	
Maybe allow only on Fridays as treat.	
• Junk food leads to obesity.	
• Parents might complain—choice vs health.	
Cheaper than healthy food sometimes.	
2. Mind Mapping (Concept Mapping)	(1 point)
Prompt: "Should students have to wear school uniforms?"	
Task: Create a mind map with "School Uniforms" in the middle. Branch out into arguments for and against. Add details, examples, or feelings.	

• Uniforms

Sample Answer (Mind Map text version):

• X Against	
Expensive for parents	
 Limits self-expression 	
Can be uncomfortable	
3. 3. Listing (Bulleting/Outlining)	(1 point)
Prompt: "Should homework be banned?"	
Task: Make a list of reasons for and against banning homework.	
Explanation:	
Sample Answer (List):	
• For banning homework:	
 Kids need time for family and rest 	
 Stress and anxiety from too much work 	
 Not all students have quiet space at home 	
Against banning homework:	
 Helps review lessons 	
Builds discipline and time management	
 Prepares for high school and beyond 	
4. 4. Cubing 1	(1 point)
Prompt: "Should animals be kept in zoos?"	
Task: Explore the topic by looking at it from 6 sides: Describe, Compare, Associate, Analyze, Apply, Argue.	
Explanation:	
Sample Answer (Cubing):	

■ Everyone looks equal → less bullying

Saves time in the morning

• Focus on learning, not fashion

•	Describe:	Zoos have cages,	enclosures,	animals from	around the world.
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- Compare: Different from the wild—animals don't hunt or migrate.
- Associate: Reminds me of school trips and seeing lions up close.
- Analyze: Zoos = caretakers, vets, feeding schedules, safety.
- Apply: Useful for research, education, and protecting endangered species.
- Argue: For = protects animals from extinction. Against = unfair to lock them up.

5. 5. Questioning (The 5 W's and H) ?	(1 point)
Prompt: "Should social media be limited for teenagers?"	
Task: Use the 5 W's and H to brainstorm arguments.	

6. 🚣 Persuasive Essay Task

(1 point)

Essay Prompt:

"Should students have a four-day school week instead of the traditional five days?"

Step 1: Brainstorm

Before you start writing, choose any brainstorming technique (Freewriting, Mind Mapping, Listing, Cubing, or Questioning). Spend 5–10 minutes generating as many ideas as possible. Don't worry about organizing yet—just get your thoughts down.

✓ Think about:

- How would a four-day week help students?
- What problems could it cause?
- Who benefits? Who might not?
- What examples can you use?

(Teacher's Note: Encourage students to submit their brainstorm with their essay so you can see their thought process.)

Step 2: Write a Persuasive Essay (500 words)

Use the TEEL structure for each body paragraph:

- T Topic Sentence: State your argument clearly.
- E Explanation: Explain your reasoning.
- E Evidence/Examples: Support with facts, logic, or personal examples.
- L Link: Link back to the main point or essay prompt.

•	L – Link: Link back to the main point of essay prompt.

** Sample Essay (Approx. 500 words)

Should Students Have a Four-Day School Week?

Imagine having a three-day weekend every single week. More time to sleep, spend with family, and recharge before another busy school week. The idea of a four-day school week is not just exciting for students—it could actually improve learning and wellbeing. Schools should move to a four-day week because it reduces stress, saves money, and makes learning more effective.

Firstly, a four-day school week would reduce stress for students.

Teenagers often face enormous pressure from homework, exams, and extracurricular activities. With one less day at school, students would finally have time to relax and take care of their mental health. For example, many schools in the United States that switched to a shorter week reported fewer cases of student burnout. This shows that when students are less overwhelmed, they can return to school focused and ready to learn. Reducing stress is essential for both academic success and personal wellbeing.

Secondly, a shorter school week would save money for schools and families.

Schools spend thousands of dollars on electricity, heating, and bus transport every single day. Cutting out just one day could reduce these costs significantly. Families would also save on lunches, transportation, and even childcare. In rural areas of the United States where four-day weeks were introduced, districts reported saving millions of dollars per year. With this money, schools could invest in better technology, sports equipment, and learning resources. Saving money while still improving education makes this a very practical solution.

Thirdly, a four-day week can actually make learning more effective.

Some critics argue that less time in school means less learning. However, studies show that when students are well-rested, they learn faster and remember more. Teachers can design longer but more engaging lessons over four days, instead of dragging out the week. For example, in schools that adopted the four-day system, test scores stayed the same or even improved. This proves that quality of learning matters more than the number of days. A shorter week gives students the rest they need to perform at their best.

Of course, there are concerns that parents might struggle with childcare on the extra day off. However, communities can adapt by providing youth programs, sports clubs, or part-time jobs for older students. In fact, this extra day could become an opportunity for students to develop life skills outside the classroom. Instead of being a disadvantage, it could enrich students' education in new and practical ways.

In conclusion, a four-day school week is not just a fun idea—it is a smart and beneficial change. It reduces stress, saves money, and even improves learning outcomes. While challenges exist, they can be solved with creative community support. Students, teachers, and families would all benefit from this modern approach to education. The question should no longer be "Should we try a four-day week?" but rather "Why haven't we done it already?"

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3.	3. Listing (Bulleting/Outlining) Prompt: "Should homework be banned?" Task: Make a list of reasons for and against banning homework.	(1 point)
4.	4. Cubing	(1 point)
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5.	5. Questioning (The 5 W's and H) ?	(1 point)

Prompt: "Should social media be limited for teenagers?"

	Task: Use the 5 W's and H to brainstorm arguments.	
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	✓ Think about:	
	 How would a four-day week help students? What problems could it cause? Who benefits? Who might not? What examples can you use? 	
	(Teacher's Note: Encourage students to submit their brainstorm with their essay so you can see their thought process.)	
	Step 2: Write a Persuasive Essay (500 words)	
	Use the TEEL structure for each body paragraph:	
	 T – Topic Sentence: State your argument clearly. E – Explanation: Explain your reasoning. E – Evidence/Examples: Support with facts, logic, or personal examples. L – Link: Link back to the main point or essay prompt. 	
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