

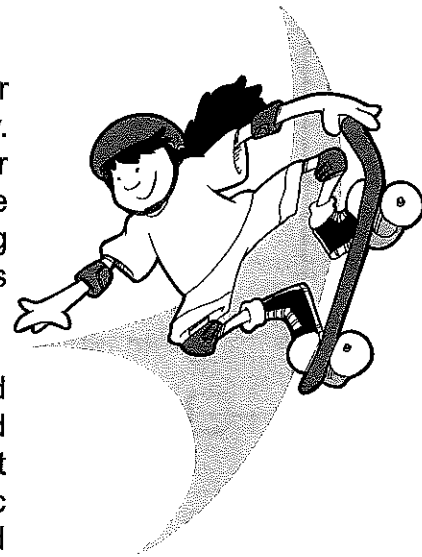
## Writing Activity 21: Persuasive Paper

**Step** Follow along as the persuasive piece below is read aloud.

**1**

### Skateboarders' Dilemma

I believe that skateboarders in our community are not being treated fairly. Skateboarding is a wholesome outdoor sport and a great form of exercise. More and more of my peers are becoming worried about the fact that skateboarding is being banned all over our town.



My friends and I have searched everywhere for a place to skateboard and are constantly being told we are not permitted to skate on private or public property. Last summer we skateboarded on the school parking lot. Over the summer, the school building and the parking lot were both empty. We were always respectful, never damaging or hurting anything. But when this summer approached, signs were posted stating skateboarding had been banned on school grounds. We thought we could take our hobby to public parks, but both had signs indicating skateboarding was against the rules. We found similar signs at other parking lots and public places throughout the community.

Skateboarding is a sport just like any other that requires a great deal of skill and practice. We feel skateboarders are being treated unfairly. Bicycling, jogging, and inline skating are allowed in public parks, but skateboarding is not. If you are going to ban skateboarding from public places, please give kids somewhere they can skateboard.

The neighboring community of Sierra built a skateboarding complex for local teens about two years ago. The money to build the complex was raised by teens and their families as well as members of the Parks and Recreation Board, the mayor, and his staff. The skateboarding area in Sierra is a huge success. The skateboarders respect the area and often invite members of the community to watch their practice sessions. The area helps everyone appreciate this unique sport.

I think our community should consider building a skateboarding area. The area would provide a safe place for kids to skateboard and have fun with their peers. If we look at the example set by the community of Sierra, we can see that a skateboarding area is a good idea for our town.

**Step** Now you will do some organizing and planning for your own persuasive paper. Remember that a good persuasive paper has the following parts:

**2**

- a statement of your opinion
- support for your opinion with facts and statements
- a conclusion that restates your opinion (it may include a suggestion for what needs to be done)

**Step** Use the following prompt to complete the prewriting and writing activities:

**3**

**Choose an important issue facing your community, state, or country. Write a persuasive paper that will convince the reader to agree with your opinion.**

**Step** Complete the graphic organizer for a persuasive paper as your prewriting activity. Use your graphic organizer to help you think through your persuasive paper

**4**

# PERSUASIVE PAPER

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Introductory Paragraph (State your opinion.)**

**Reason #1:**

**Reason #2:**

**Reason #3:**

**Concluding Paragraph**