

## Basic Writing Modes 7

### Persuasion

#### THINKING STEPS

1. Choose a current subject about which there is a lot of disagreement. Consider, for example, the following assertions:

A. "Strict control of air and water pollution is needed now."

B. "Use of marijuana should be made legal."

Either of these disputes or any similar conflict would make a good subject.

2. Make a list of the most important reasons for and against the course of action you have chosen to write about.
3. Choose which side of the argument you will take and write a statement of your position that will serve as the main idea of the argument you are going to present.

#### WRITING STEPS

4. Write an introduction which will catch your reader's attention and lead to the statement of your main idea.
5. **DEVELOPMENT:** Decide whether you are (A) going to support your main idea by explaining your reasons for feeling as you do or (B) by breaking down the main argument on the other side before bringing on your supporting points in a sort of pro-con pattern\_ ("Granted that X is true, but Y is even more true"). Then work out the development according to the plan you have chosen. In either form, **PUT YOUR STRONGEST POINTS LAST.**
6. **conclusion:** Restate your main idea and make us want to accept it and act accordingly.