

## PERSUASIVE PARAGRAPH

Trying to convince the reader to take an action or agree with your point of view.

Stronger language is used.

Look at TWO sides of the issue rather than your own: counter arguments. Use a pros/cons table. (See Thinking Toolbox on Opposing Viewpoints.)

Tell reasons/evidence why your point of view is strongest, better.

**Prompt:** A well-known football coach once said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Write an essay in which you state your position and support it with convincing reasons.

**Analyzed Prompt:** A well-known football coach once said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Do you **agree or disagree with this statement?** Write a paragraph in which you state your position and support it with convincing reasons.

### **Skeleton Answers to Prompt:**

**OS:** I disagree with the statement, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Hook: well-known football coach

**D#1:** Counterargument: Winning is the point of competing  
EX:

**D#2:** best competition is with one's self for improvement of skill  
EX:

**D#3:** satisfaction is in integrity and enjoyment of competing with like-minded opponents, whether one wins or not  
EX:

**CS:** Competition drives us to be better skilled and to enjoy fellowship with others who like the same thing, even if that means losing sometimes.

**BRAINSTORM:** (create the web to get down on paper your many thoughts).

**Persuasion:** My reader may want to win. I need to think of why and how losing can be as good as winning.

PLAYING TO WIN	PLAYING TO GAIN SKILL
recognition	recognition if you play the game well
awards	you learn how to play wiser by mistakes
separates from those who don't win	unites with all those who have played
achieved the goal	if the goal was to learn and improve, then experience has been gained and the goal has been achieved
forces players to push harder	does not push as hard toward their potential unless they are playing their "best" -- playing to win is not wrong, it just isn't "everything"

**OS:** I disagree with the statement, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Hook: well-known football coach

**D#1:** Counterargument: Winning is the point of competing

**EX:** But is it the only point of competing? There are many skills needed to compete in any endeavor. Gaining skill is, therefore, another goal of competition.

**D#2:** best competition is with one's self for improvement of skill

**EX:** When learning to play the piano, I had to rehearse a single line of music repeatedly, and the only competitor was my former performance of that line. My goal was perfection of performance, not to win over another pianist.

**D#3:** satisfaction is in integrity and enjoyment of competing with like-minded opponents, whether one wins or not

**EX:** When competing for a prize that only one person or team will win, others will lose. Those losers are people who also enjoy the same game or skill in which we are competing, so they are "fellows" in the sport or skill. They are more my friends than my opponents. Playing fairly and with good will toward all is as rewarding as winning over them.

**CS:** Competition drives us to be better skilled and to enjoy fellowship with others who like the same thing, even if that means losing sometimes.

**Persuasive Paragraph from Outline:** (Note that the outline does not dictate every word of the final paragraph, but inspires it and orders it.)

I disagree with a well-known football coach's statement, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." It is true that winning is the point of competing. After all, winning shows that you have reached a certain, recognized level of skill above all others. However, is winning the only point of competing? There are many skills needed to compete in any endeavor. Gaining skill is, therefore, another goal of competition. I believe that the best competition is with one's self for improvement. When learning to play the piano, I had to rehearse a single line of music repeatedly, competing only against my former performance. My goal was perfection, not to win over another pianist. There is satisfaction in the integrity and enjoyment of competing with others who like the same things I like, whether any of us wins. In competition, one will win and others will lose, but all are working together to improve our skills in the competition. They are more my friends than my opponents. Playing a game where everyone is doing their best is rewarding even if I don't win. Competition drives us to be better skilled and to enjoy fellowship with others who like the same things, even if it means losing sometimes.