

# Useful phrases and how to be convincing when you argue.

**Let's say you are living and working in The United States and you have to write a letter to your local politician, protesting against an intended highway through your garden. How would you go about it?**

## Here are a few suggestions:

1. **Brainstorming**; Start by listing all your opinions, facts, arguments etc
2. **Decide what your point is**; what exactly is it you want to convince the politician about?  
For instance: Highway 54 shouldn't be built through my garden or Highway 54 shouldn't be built at all.  
When you have decided what exactly it is you want to convince the politician then you have your **thesis statement**. Everything you write should be carefully thought of, it must support your thesis statement.
3. Look at all your points, facts etc, which are relevant? Make a choice, you need **three main points**. You can discuss and explain them as much as you like but settle for three main points!
4. **What can be said against your points?**. Let's say one of your points is that a rare type of bird is nesting in your garden. As a matter of fact that bird is an endangered species. Somebody might say that the nest can easily be moved or that the bird wouldn't survive anyway... You need to think of a few obvious things that will be argued against your point.
5. Make an outline:

- Introduction (you introduce the problem and state your opinion- your thesis statement goes in here)
- First paragraph (You start with one of your points and explain it, possibly mentioning one of the arguments against your point and explaining why that argument isn't relevant or important)
- Second paragraph (your second point, explaining etc)
- Third paragraph (your third point)
- Conclusion (this is where you sum things up, concluding that your points have proved you right. The highway shouldn't be built).
- 

6. Complete your outline with sentences and you have a **draft**! All it takes is a bit of rewriting and you have an excellent letter!

## A few useful expressions:

**To begin with / First of all**

**There can be no doubt**

**On the other hand**

**Secondly**

**Furthermore**

**Taking into account**

**Thus**

**It is evident, obvious**

**Finally / In conclusion**

Till att börja med...

Det kan inte finnas några tvivel

Å andra sidan

För det andra

Dessutom

Om man tar med i beräkningarna

Sålunda

Det är uppenbart, tydligt

Slutligen

