

Name: _____

Persuasive Writing

Pledge to the Flag

Do you agree or disagree with the statement below?

Students should be required to say the *Pledge of Allegiance* at the start of each school day.



State your opinion and use details to support your point of view.

Name: _____

Pledge to the Flag

Draw a picture to supplement your persuasive essay.

TEACHER NOTES

Pledge to the Flag

Recommendations for Lesson:

Before presenting this persuasive writing prompt to students, you may choose to have a class discussion to present both sides of the issue.

Arguments in favor of saying the *Pledge of Allegiance* might include:

- The *Pledge* reminds people to reflect on the importance of freedom and liberty.
- The *Pledge* promotes patriotism.
- It only takes a few moments to say the *Pledge*, so it's not really taking much time away from the school day.

Arguments against saying the *Pledge of Allegiance* might include:

- When a child is forced to recite the *Pledge*, he or she is making a promise of loyalty (allegiance) whether he/she means it or not.
- Students in school usually say the *Pledge* from rote memory, not from the heart.
- The phrase "one nation under God" is used in the *Pledge*. People have the freedom to not believe in God if they choose.
- The *Pledge* takes up valuable classroom time each morning which could be better spent learning.

When writing their persuasive essays, students should be encouraged to include a topic sentence (or topic paragraph) stating their opinion, followed by persuasive details to support their point of view. Writers can also acknowledge the opinions of those who might have a different view, and follow up with an argument to make their case.