

Practice Persuasive Task 1

Robert and his wife, Irina, are considering buying a house. He has recently begun a new job and he earns \$40,000 a year. Irina is a contract worker for a publishing company, and though she brings in \$30,000-\$40,000 a year, her income is not as stable.

Together, Robert and Irina have about \$10,000 in credit card debt, \$80,000 in student loans, and a car loan with an outstanding principle of \$9,500 at an interest rate of 5.75%. The rent for their apartment is \$1,000 per month.

Irina thinks paying rent is like throwing money away. Instead of rent, she would rather that money go towards a mortgage. She also says her mother will loan them \$10,000 for a down payment on a house.

Even so, Robert is concerned that buying a house in this economy is too risky. He wants to pay off more of their debt before buying a house and wait until the housing market stabilizes. Irina disagrees, saying that now, when housing prices are falling, is the best time to buy a house.

In the role of Robert and Irina's financial advisor, compose an e-mail to Robert and Irina in which you recommend a course of action to them. Should they buy a house, like Irina urges? Should they pay down debts and wait to buy a house? Or might there be a different approach?

Your response will be scored with the rubric used on the Writing Skills Assessment of the Milgard School of Business.

Practice Persuasive Task 2

Steve has just inherited \$5,000 from a distant relative, and he is having trouble deciding what to do with the money. Unfortunately for Steve, he has a rather impulsive personality. He is considering buying lottery tickets, going to a casino to try to win more money, investing in the stock market, or even donating some of the money to charity. He is even talking about using the money to travel overseas.

Steve would like your advice. What do you think he should do with the money? There are some other things you should know about Steve: He owes over \$5,000 on his credit cards and also on his car.

As Steve's friend, write an e-mail to him in which you advise him how to spend his money. You can advise him to spend it all, save it, donate it, pay down debt, or do any combination of these options. **Clearly state your position and use reasons and examples to be persuasive.**

Practice Persuasive Task 3

Rebecca is a high school senior who is interested in pursuing a career in international business. Though she has fulfilled her foreign language requirements with two years of Spanish, she does not plan on studying Spanish or any other language in college. Rebecca knows that English is nearly essential to the business world, and she figures that all of her future clients and business partners will speak English.

Write to Rebecca as if you were writing an e-mail. In your "e-mail," urge Rebecca to learn another language. Tell her why she should learn another language, even if most of her co-workers and clients speak English. Also, choose a language that you think would be especially helpful for her to become fluent in. Should she continue her study of Spanish, or should she learn a different language?

Be sure to support your case with reasons and/or examples.

Practice Position Task 1

Directions: Write an essay in which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

A. The recent decline in manners is having a serious impact on today's society.

or

B. The key component of being successful in leadership is the ability to make confident decisions.

Practice Position Task 2

Directions: Write an essay in which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Children should not be allowed to bring cell phones to school.

Clearly state your position and support it with reasons and examples. You have 45 minutes to plan and write your essay.