

English: The Power of Persuasion

Madame Tussauds Sydney — Schools Resource

NSW Syllabus: English K–10 (2022)

Stage: Stage 3 (Years 5–6)

About this resource

This resource builds persuasive writing and character analysis skills, using the gallery's figures as a springboard for argument and representation.

Curriculum outcomes addressed

- **EN3-OLC-01** — communicates to wide audiences with social and cultural awareness
- **EN3-VOCAB-01** — extends Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary through interacting, wide reading and writing
- **EN3-UARL-01** — analyses representations of ideas in literature through narrative, character, imagery and symbol
- **EN3-CWT-01** — plans, creates and revises written texts for multiple purposes and audiences

Key inquiry question

How do writers use persuasive techniques to convince an audience that someone (or something) is worth admiring?

Exercise 1: Persuasion Toolkit (Classroom — Pre-Visit)

Format: Classroom-based | 25 minutes

1. Introduce or revise persuasive techniques: emotive language, rhetorical questions, rule of three, expert opinion.
2. In pairs, find an example of each technique in an advertisement or opinion piece (teacher-provided).
3. Discuss: how might these same techniques be used to persuade someone that a person is worth celebrating?

Exercise 2: Building a Case (Excursion — In-Venue)

Format: Gallery-based | 30 minutes

1. Choose one figure from the exhibition to focus on.
2. Record three notable achievements or qualities of this person.
3. Observe how the exhibit persuades visitors: styling, setting, information provided.

4. Rate how convincing the representation is and explain your rating.
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Exercise 3: Persuasive Text (Classroom — Post-Visit)

Format: Classroom-based | 40 minutes

1. Plan your persuasive text using at least three techniques from Exercise 1.
 2. Write 200–250 words arguing that your chosen figure deserves their place in the exhibition.
 3. Include an introduction, supporting points, and conclusion.
 4. Peer review: swap with a partner and identify which persuasive techniques they used.
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Exercise 1: Persuasion Toolkit (Classroom — Pre-Visit)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Today you will learn about four key persuasive techniques that writers use to convince their audience. Work with your partner to find examples of each technique.

Persuasive Technique	Definition	Example from text (write quote or describe)
Emotive Language	Words that create strong feelings or emotions	
Rhetorical Questions	Questions asked to make a point, not to get an answer	
Rule of Three	Repeating an idea three times to make it memorable	
Expert Opinion	Using the view of someone knowledgeable to support your argument	

Discussion Question:

How might these same techniques be used to persuade someone that a person is worth celebrating? Discuss with your partner and write your ideas below.

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Exercise 2: Student Worksheet: Building a Case (Excursion — In-Venue)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Use this worksheet during your gallery visit. Choose ONE figure from the exhibition to focus on.

Figure I have chosen:

Part 1: Three Notable Achievements or Qualities

1.

2.

3.

Part 2: How the Exhibit Persuades Visitors

Look carefully at how this person is presented. What does the exhibit do to convince you this person is significant?

Element	What I noticed
Styling (colors, design, layout)	
Setting (where placed, what's around it)	
Information provided (facts, quotes, images)	

Part 3: Your Rating

How convincing is this exhibit's representation of this person?

My rating: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 (circle one)

Explain your rating:

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Exercise 3: Student Worksheet: Persuasive Text (Classroom — Post-Visit)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Now it's time to write your own persuasive text! You will argue that your chosen figure deserves their place in the exhibition.

My chosen figure:

Task Requirements:

- Write 200–250 words
- Use at least THREE persuasive techniques from Exercise 1

Include an introduction, supporting points, and a conclusion

Planning Space: Brainstorm Your Ideas

Which persuasive techniques will you use? Jot down ideas for each:

Technique	How I will use it
1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	

Draft Your Persuasive Text Below

(Remember: introduction, supporting points, conclusion)

[illegible]

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