

Example persuasive speech 1 - A letter from the Strikers

We, the young, are deeply concerned about our future. Humanity is currently causing the sixth mass extinction of species and the global climate system is at the brink of a catastrophic crisis. Its devastating impacts are already felt by millions of people around the globe. Yet we are far from reaching the goals of the Paris agreement.

Young people make up more than half of the global population. Our generation grew up with the climate crisis and we will have to deal with it for the rest of our lives. Despite that fact, most of us are not included in the local and global decision-making process. We are the voiceless future of humanity.

We will no longer accept this injustice. We demand justice for all past, current and future victims of the climate crisis, and so we are rising up. Thousands of us have taken to the streets in the past weeks all around the world. Now we will make our voices heard. On 15 March, we will protest on every continent.

We finally need to treat the climate crisis as a crisis. It is the biggest threat in human history and we will not accept the world's decision-makers' inaction that threatens our entire civilisation. We will not accept a life in fear and devastation. We have the right to live our dreams and hopes. Climate Change is already happening. People did die, are dying and will die because of it, but we can and will stop this madness.

We, the young, have started to move. We are going to change the fate of humanity, whether you like it or not. United we will rise until we see climate justice. We demand the world's decision-makers take responsibility and solve this crisis.

You have failed us in the past. If you continue failing us in the future, we, the young people, will make change happen by ourselves. The youth of this world has started to move and we will not rest again.

(Greta Thunberg)

Example persuasive speech 2

I matter

We **all** matter.

Who will look after you when you are old and sick and in need of care? We will. Who will purify our polluted rivers and oceans, unchoke our polluted skies, bring life to our polluted earth? We will. Who will bring light where there is only darkness, hope where there is only despair, peace where there is only conflict? We will.

But how can we do these things when so many of us will never be educated? Today, across the world, 2 out of 10 children are not in primary school, 1 out of 10 children have never been to primary school, and 6 out of 10 children will never make it to secondary school.

53% of Indian children are not in school and will never return. Who will teach them to look after the old and sick? Who will teach them to care for our polluted earth? Who will bring light to their dark lives? Who will bring hope in the midst of despair?

We must. We must cry at the top of our voices until people listen. We must bang on every door until people will open them. We must make governments help those who cannot help themselves.

I matter. You matter. Everyone in this room matters.

But let's not forget that Durgamma matters too.

Thank you.

(Year 6 Pupil)