

Bilingual Education: Yes or No?

Writer's Tip

- When writing a persuasive essay, think about both sides of the issue.
- *Address audience concerns* to build a more convincing argument.

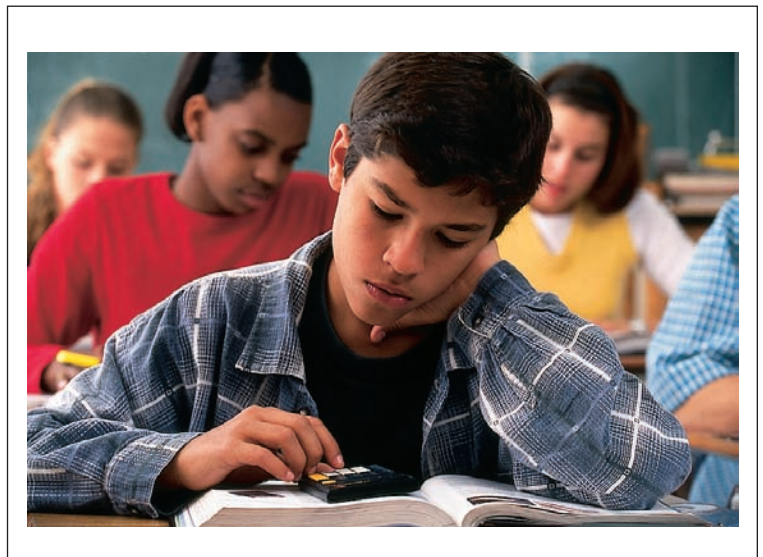
For generations, immigrants have come to the United States without speaking any English. My mother was one of them. She started school without understanding a word that was said to her. At first, it was scary. But taking all of her classes entirely in English forced her to learn the language quickly.

Today many students who don't speak English are taught in separate classes. This is supposed to be an improvement, but I don't think it is.

Learning a new language is difficult. And anyone, given the choice, prefers to use the language he or she knows best. That's why I think total immersion in English is the fastest route to fluency.

Of course, schools should respect a student's culture. Schools should encourage clubs and cultural events. And students who have trouble keeping up in their classes should be given plenty of extra help. Educators need to make sure that no kids get left behind.

In my opinion, keeping English-language learners with their peers is better preparation for the future.



Address Audience Concerns

- ▶ Reread the essay. Underline sections where the author addresses audience concerns. Then write the concerns that are addressed in the lines below.

Audience Concerns

- ① Schools should show respect for all cultures.
- ② _____

How Writer Addresses Concerns

- ① Schools should encourage clubs and cultural events.
- ② _____

Your Turn

- ▶ Think about the topic of your persuasive essay. What concerns might an audience have about your position? In the chart below, list two concerns and ways you might address them.

Audience Concern	How to Address Concern

- ▶ Use your chart to write a paragraph for your persuasive essay that addresses an audience concern.