

### **Personal Persuasion Article Expectations**

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1. Primary **purpose** is to persuade **audience** of author's views
2. In this case, **subjective opinions** work well: be personal
3. Evoke **emotions** and **senses** to attract interest of reading audience

### **Points Regarding Audience**

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1. What information does reading audience already know?
2. What new information is necessary to prove writer's point?
3. What is the current attitude of the audience on the subject?
4. Is the audience sympathetic, neutral, or against the writer's opinion?
5. What is the audience's background?

### **Elements to Consider**

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1. **Tone:** *What tone of voice works well for audience? —create fear? —humor? —anger?*
2. **Formality:** *Is the article a formal research project or a personal essay?*
3. **Narration:** *What narrative voice works best for the project?*

### **In-Class Group Exercise**

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After reading "Fighting Words" by Richard Wright, answer **all** of the following discussion questions in your **reading journal**; be sure to post the date at the top of the page. If you want to use elbow partners that is fine. **For each question you should have a 3-5 sentence response.**

- A. Propose who is Wright's primary audience. Is the audience sympathetic, neutral, or against his opinion?
- B. What is Wright's persuasive argument? What is he wanting to convince you?
- C. Consider the title. What concept does "Fighting Words" refer to? Who is "fighting?"
- D. Wright has chosen first person narration to tell his story. Would using any other narrative voice be just as effective? Why or why not?
- E. Consider why Wright was so cautious about checking out a book of writing by the essayist H. L. Mencken. Why would such an author be restricted from African-American readers?

### **Additional Information**

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- H. L. Mencken, editor of American Mercury 1924-1933—It is still available online:

<https://theamericanmercury.org>

- or visit Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_American\\_Mercury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_American_Mercury)