Using Statistics in Persuasive Writing

*L.I To develop an understanding how statistics are used in persuasive writing.*

*S.C. I will be successful if I can*

* *Explain how statistics are used in persuasive writing*
* *Identify where statistics have been used in a persuasive piece of writing*
* *Use statistics when writing a persuasive text*

Statistics are used in arguments to make the reader believe that you know what you are talking about. They make people believe that you have investigated the issue. There are several ways you can present statistical information. When you are doing persuasive writing for school it is OK to make up the statistics as long as they are believable.

1. You can quote percentages – “90%of children say that doing homework is stressful.”
2. You can give ratios – “9 out of 10 children surveyed said that doing homework caused stress at home.”
3. You can use words – “The majority of children agree that doing homework causes some stress in their lives.”

**Activity 1- Highlight the use of statistics in this persuasive piece:**

Netball is the best sport in the world. 75% of girls surveyed said they liked playing netball the most out of all the sport played at school. And 3 out of every 5 boys surveyed said they enjoyed learning how to play netball at school. Although netball is not played at the Olympics, the majority of Australians believe that it should be included as an Olympic sport.

**Activity 2- Use the following statistics to strengthen the arguments below.**

75% of people think 9 out of 10 doctors say that

The majority of teachers agree The majority of teenagers think that

2 out of 3 students voted for 90 % of Australians think that

The school canteen should sell soft drinks.

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Homework helps students to learn.

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Teenagers should exercise for at least 30 minutes a day..

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People in Australia pay too much tax

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Video games are an acceptable way to relax after school

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Australian rules football is the best game in the world

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**Activity 3- Write your own persuasive paragraph about your favourite sport and include at least 3 of the following statistics, or make up 3 of your own (remember they need to be believable)**

8 out of 10 people think that

75% of girls agree that

The majority of doctors agree

90 % of people think

4 out of 5 boys said

85% of teenagers surveyed said

Nearly everyone surveyed agreed

3 in 5 students said that