

# AP Language Essay 2: Persuasion

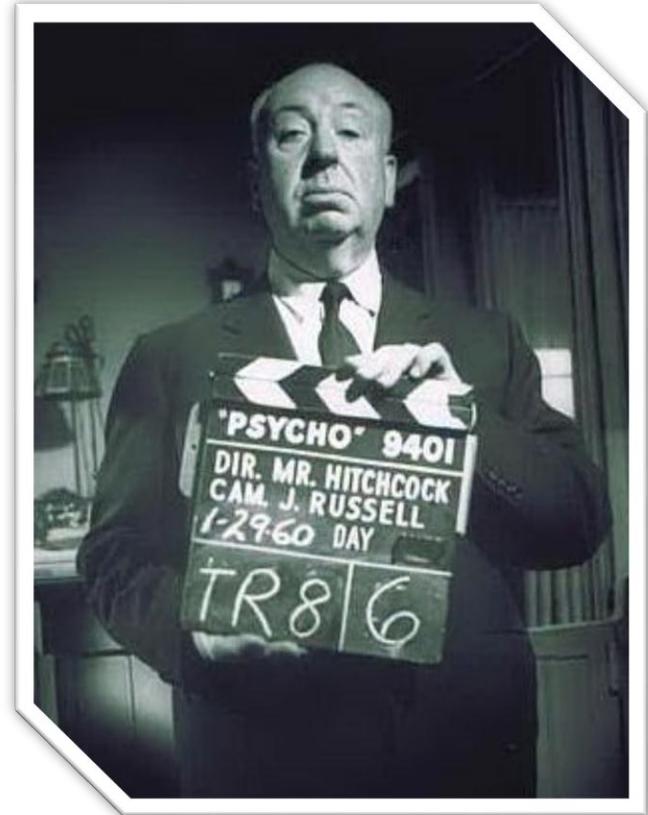


## Prompt

NYU Professor of culture and sociology Todd Gitlin believes that critics of the media are wrong to argue that violence in the media is responsible for violent behavior:

The campaigners believe they know what screen violence does: it invites imitation in the real world. But brutality plays on-screen virtually everywhere on earth without generating epidemics of copy-cat carnage. Demonic Hollywood is a handy issue for politicians who prefer to avoid palpable social failure: poverty, inequality, guns. To blame human wickedness on images is the moralistic recourse of a society that is unwilling to condemn trash on aesthetic grounds. [Media Unlimited, 2001]

In a well-developed and carefully reasoned essay, defend, challenge, or qualify Gitlin's argument that blaming real world violence on the media is a flawed position. Use evidence from your own experience, reading and/or observations to develop your position.



## Requirements

- Please submit a typed response that uses a legible 10 point font, 1" margins, a double spaced body, and a simple single spaced header.
- Your response should include both an introduction and conclusion, both of which should be short and direct.
- A good goal would be 1 ½-2 pages.

## Tips

- One of the great things about the AP persuasive argument is that you can use a wide variety of information and ideas to construct your argument. The downside is that you can use a wide variety of information and ideas. 😊 Stick with your best academic argument, limiting personal references and examples.
- Have a well-developed thesis that you stick with. Organization is paramount.
- Don't be afraid to break the five paragraph mold. Use an organic structure that suits your argument, not some antiquated idea of what an essay looks like.
- Limit your use of outside quotations. Because you won't be able to use outside sources on the AP exam, it's important to practice writing without them.
- For this essay, remember some of the specific tips we discussed for the first one: developing a clear, argumentative thesis, weaving in examples rather than overdeveloping one or under-developing others, and engaging the reader with a STAMPY introduction.