

## **DR PERELMAN'S GUIDE TO A TOP SCORING NAPLAN PERSUASIVE RESPONSE**

1. Memorise the list of difficult and challenging spelling words and sprinkle them throughout the paper.
2. If you are not sure how to spell a word, do not use it.
3. Repeat the language and ideas in the Writing Task throughout the paper.
4. Master the five-paragraph form.
  - a. Have a minimum of four paragraphs, preferably five.
  - b. Each paragraph, except the last one, should have a minimum of four sentences.
  - c. The first paragraph should end with your thesis sentence.
  - d. The next-to-last paragraph should modify your thesis sentence by taking the other side of the issue in special cases.
  - e. The last paragraph should begin with "In conclusion" and then repeat the thesis sentence from the first paragraph. Then just repeat two or three ideas from the other paragraphs.
5. Increase your score on the "Audience" and "Persuasive Devices" categories by addressing the reader using "you" and ask questions.
6. Use connective (Velcro) words such as "Moreover," "However," "In addition", "On the other hand" at the beginning of sentences.
7. Begin sentences with phrases such as "In my opinion", "I believe that", "I think that" etc.
8. Use referential pronouns, such as "this".
9. Make arguments using forms such as "We all believe that we should do X" or "We all know that Y is harmful".
10. Always have at least one, preferably two adjectives next to nouns. Thus, not "the dog" but the "frisky and playful dog".