

Affix Label Here

New Student or Corrected Information

Name: _____

ID #: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____

Teacher: _____ Period: _____

Student Packet

Grade 8

Everett Public Schools Assessment of Student Learning



Persuasive Writing Assessment Benchmark Trimester 3

Full Name: _____

8th Grade

Teacher: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

Writing Assessment

Directions to the Student

For this assessment, you will have one writing task. **In order to earn the best possible score, be sure you follow directions and write in the assigned mode/purpose for the task.**

This writing task will allow you to follow all of the steps of the writing process: prewriting, writing a first draft, revising, editing, and writing a final draft. This task has accompanying scoring criteria.

There is space provided in the test booklet for pre-writing. You will receive several pieces of scratch paper for creating a draft. However, you must write your final draft for the writing task in this booklet.

Please note: For the writing task, the only piece of writing that will be scored is what is written in this booklet. Additional pages inserted into this booklet will not be scored.

There are several important things to remember:

1. You will have as much time as you need for the writing task.
2. For this writing task you are allowed to use a thesaurus and a dictionary in print form only.
No electronic tools may be used.
3. Your final draft for this writing task must be written in this booklet on the pages provided.
Additional pages inserted in this booklet will not be scored.
4. When writing your final draft in this booklet, be sure to write neatly and clearly on the lines provided. Cross out or erase any part of your work you do not want to include as part of your final draft.
5. If you finish the writing task early, you may check over your work.
6. When you reach the word **STOP** in your booklet, do **not** turn the page.

STOP

Writing

Scoring Criteria for the Writing Task

Checklist for Persuasive Writing

My essay or letter will be convincing if I include thoughtful and specific content and organize my writing well. That means I should

- ☐ follow the directions given in the writing prompt;
- ☐ have a clear position and stay focused on that position;
- ☐ have more than one argument to support my position;
- ☐ elaborate by using reasons, well-chosen and specific details, examples, anecdotes, facts, and/or statistics as evidence to support my arguments;
- ☐ organize my writing to make the best case for my position;
- ☐ begin my writing with an opening, include a statement of position, and end my writing with an effective persuasive conclusion, such as a call for action; and
- ☐ use transitions to connect my position, arguments, and evidence.

My essay or letter will be convincing if I demonstrate an interesting style. That means I should

- ☐ show that I am committed to my position by writing in a voice appropriate for my audience and purpose;
- ☐ use words, phrases, and persuasive techniques that urge or compel the reader to support my position; and
- ☐ use different types and lengths of sentences.

My essay or letter will be convincing if I follow conventions in writing. That means I should

- ☐ follow the rules of Standard English usage,
- ☐ spell words correctly,
- ☐ use correct capitalization,
- ☐ use correct punctuation,
- ☐ write complete sentences, and
- ☐ show where new paragraphs begin.

Go On

Writing Task

Persuasive Writing

Directions: Today, you will write a persuasive essay. In persuasive writing, a writer convinces an audience by supporting a position with reasons, examples and evidence. In order to earn the best possible score, be sure that you follow directions and write in the persuasive mode. For this writing task, you will have the opportunity to follow all of the steps of the writing process: prewriting, writing a first draft, revising, editing, and writing a final draft. You may use a dictionary and thesaurus in print form only.
No electronic tools may be used.

The only piece of writing that will be scored is your final draft. Your score will be based on the scoring criteria listed on the previous page. Be sure to refer to this checklist of scoring criteria to help you write an effective persuasive essay. Additional pages inserted into this booklet will not be scored.

YOUR TASK

You have entered a contest to win a year living with a guest family in another country. The contest requires you to choose a special gift that will be given to the family. This gift should represent you or your culture. In order to win the contest you must write a multi-paragraph letter to the sponsors of the contest, convincing them that the gift you have chosen best represents you or your culture.

Persuasive Writing Task

Prewriting

Directions: Prewriting is a great way to get started on a writing task because it gives you ideas to start with. It also helps you organize your ideas before you write. There are different kinds of prewriting. Choose **one** of the following, or another one that you know and like, and use the next page (and additional scratch paper if you need more space) to do the prewriting.

- **Draw a web or a cluster** with circles connected by lines. In the circles, write ideas that develop and support your topic (details, reasons, and/or examples). Draw lines to connect ideas that are related in some way. Then, decide how you will organize your ideas.

OR

- List ideas that develop and support your topic. You don't have to write complete sentences. At first, don't worry about the order of the ideas. After you have finished your list, you can go back and organize your ideas.

OR

- Do an **outline**.

OR

- Do **another kind** of prewriting that you know and like.

Writing

Prewriting

Directions: Use the space below, or the scratch paper provided, for your prewriting. **Remember, your prewriting will not be scored.**

First Draft

Directions: Use the best ideas from your prewriting to write your first draft on the scratch paper provided. Since it is a draft, it is okay to cross out words and sentences and try different ways to get your ideas across. You may use a thesaurus and a dictionary in print form only.

No electronic tools may be used. Remember, your first draft will not be scored.

Persuasive Writing Task

Final Draft

Directions: Before you begin your final draft, read the checklist on page 2 again. Then make revisions and edits to your final draft according to the checklist. When you have made your revisions and edits, write your final draft on this page and the next four pages, if you need them.

After you have finished writing your final draft in the booklet, read the checklist one more time to make sure you have done your most effective writing. If you need to make any final revisions or edits, make them on your final draft. Remember, you may use a thesaurus and dictionary in print form only to help you with your words. **No electronic tools may be used.** Your final draft **will be scored**.

YOUR TASK

You have entered a contest to win a year living with a guest family in another country. The contest requires you to choose a special gift that will be given to the family. This gift should represent you or your culture. In order to win the contest you must write a multi-paragraph letter to the sponsors of the contest, convincing them that the gift you have chosen best represents you or your culture.

Writing

Final draft

Continue your final draft on this page, if you need to.

[illegible]

Writing

Final draft

Continue your final draft on this page, if you need to.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Writing

Final draft

Continue your final draft on this page, if you need to.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Writing

Final draft

Continue your final draft on this page, if you need to.

[illegible]

STOP