

Name: _____
School: _____
Teacher: _____
Period: _____ Grade: _____

Everett Public Schools

Secondary Writing Assessment

Student Packet



Grade 8
Mid-Year Benchmark

Persuasive Writing

Writing Task: Persuasive Essay

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 enough time to follow all of the steps of the writing process: prewriting, writing a first draft, revising, editing, and writing a final draft. Use your scratch paper for the pre-writing and first draft process. You must write your final draft for the writing task in this booklet to be scored.

You may use a dictionary and/or thesaurus. If electronic, it must not have grammar hints, or word prediction software, and topic specific dictionaries must be disabled.

Your score will be based on the scoring criteria listed below. Be sure to refer to this checklist of scoring criteria to help you write an effective persuasive essay.

Scoring Criteria for the Writing Task

Checklist for Persuasive Writing

My essay or letter will be effective if I:

Have good content and organization. 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;
- ☐ consider the opposing argument(s) and, if important, refute;
- ☐ 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.

Have 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 sentences of varied length and structure.

Follow conventions in writing. That means I should:

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

Persuasive Writing Task

Final Draft

Directions: Before you begin your final draft, read the checklist on the previous page again. Then make revisions and edits to your final draft according to the checklist. When you have made your revisions and edits, begin your final draft on this page and use the next four pages, as needed.

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. You may then make any final revisions or edits to your essay. Remember, you may use a thesaurus and/or dictionary. Your **final draft** below will be scored.

YOUR TASK

Violence is found in many television shows, videogames and music lyrics. Some adults believe that this violence contributes to violent actions by teenagers. Do you agree or disagree with this belief? Write a multiple-paragraph essay to your local newspaper persuading readers to agree with your viewpoint.

Begin your **final draft** below.

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.

Persuasive Writing

Final draft

You may use this space to continue your **final draft**.

This image shows a single 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.

Persuasive Writing

Final draft

You may use this space to continue your **final draft**.

[illegible]

Persuasive Writing

Final draft

You may use this space to continue your **final draft**.

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Persuasive Writing

Final draft

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