

Union Grove Elementary School  
 Persuasive Essay Rubric  
 Grade 8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY	ADVAN. (4)	PROF.(3)	BASIC (2)	MIN.(1)
<b>IDEAS:</b>				
<b>Information</b>	At least three convincing arguments are supported by details.	Three convincing arguments are given but may not be well-supported.	Three arguments are given but are not convincing or well-supported.	Two or less arguments are given. They are not well-supported.
<b>Paragraphs</b>	All paragraphs are well-supported with appropriate facts and details.	Most paragraphs are well-supported with appropriate facts and details.	Some paragraphs are well-supported with appropriate facts and details.	Very few paragraphs are supported with appropriate facts and details.
<b>Attention grabber</b>	Interesting and unique – grabs the reader's attention right away.	Appropriate – gets the reader's attention	An attention grabber is used.	An attention grabber is not used.
<b>Introduction</b>	Introduction is clear and reflects what the entire paper is about.	Introduction is somewhat clear and reflects what the entire paper is about.	Introduction is unclear and does not reflect what the paper is about.	An introduction is not used.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Conclusion is effective. It accurately sums up the piece and restates the goal.	Conclusion is somewhat effective and accurately sums up the piece.	Conclusion is not effective. It does not sum up the piece.	A conclusion is not used.
<b>ORGANIZATION:</b>				
<b>Sequencing</b>	Details follow a clear order, logical order. They make the paper easy for the reader to understand.	Details follow a clear order.	Some details may be out of order, making some parts of the paper difficult to understand.	Details do not follow a logical order.
<b>Each paragraph contains a clear topic sentence</b>	Topic sentences are evident. It is very clear what each paragraph will be about.	Topic sentences exist, but not all make it evident what the paragraph will be about.	Several topic sentences are missing and several are weak.	Most paragraphs do not contain topic sentences.
<b>VOICE:</b>				
<b>Writer is knowledgeable in topic</b>	The writer uses words and phrases that accurately explain and thoroughly describe the topic.	The paper would benefit from more accurate descriptions and explanations.	The paper is lacking in explanation and description.	The writer does not seem knowledgeable in the topic.
<b>Writer demonstrates his/her opinion</b>	The writer clearly shows his or her opinion about the issue.	The writer could have demonstrated his or her opinion more strongly.	The writer shows little opinion about the issue.	The writer shows no opinion about the issue.
<b>Writer has used his/her own words in the writing</b>	The paper contains confident language that is original and unique throughout the paper.	Most parts of the paper contain language that is original and unique.	Some parts of the paper contain language that is original and unique.	The writer has plagiarized.

**WORD CHOICE:**

<b>Writing is formal (no use of slang)</b>	Writing is formal throughout the entire essay.	Writing is formal throughout most of the essay.	Writing is formal in some parts of the essay.	Writing is formal in very few parts of the essay.
<b>Writer uses terminology appropriate for persuasion.</b>	Persuasive language is used throughout the entire piece.	The essay would benefit from stronger persuasive language	Persuasive language is strongly lacking	The essay has no persuasive language.
<b>Unfamiliar terms are defined and explained</b>	All unfamiliar terms are defined and thoroughly explained for the reader.	Most unfamiliar terms are defined and explained for the reader.	Some unfamiliar terms are defined and explained for the reader.	No unfamiliar terms are defined or explained for the reader.
<b>Verb choice is clear and concise</b>	Verbs are precise, active, and descriptive.	The writer could have used more exact, precise verbs.	Verb choice is limited and repetitive.	Verb choice is vague or uninteresting. It may be confusing.

**SENTENCE FLUENCY:**

<b>Writer uses transition words to help sentences and paragraphs flow into one another.</b>	The writing flows very smoothly from one sentence, paragraph, and subtopic to the next.	The essay would benefit from stronger transitions.	Transition sentences are strongly lacking.	The writing is choppy and hard to follow.
<b>Uses a variety of sentences: simple, compound, and complex</b>	Sentence length and structure vary.	The essay would benefit from greater sentence variety.	The essay lacks sentence variety.	Sentences are short, unclear, or repetitive.

**CONVENTIONS:**

<b>Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are correct (5)</b>	Throughout the entire piece	Throughout most of the piece. Mistakes do not affect understanding or distract the reader.	Throughout some of the piece. Some mistakes affect understanding and/or distract the reader.	Many mistakes make the paper hard to understand.
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**PRESENTATION:**

<b>Bibliography</b>	Completely correct	Mostly Correct	Nearly correct	Missing
<b>Title Page</b>	Completely correct	Mostly correct	Nearly correct	Missing
<b>Includes header with name and page number</b>	Completely correct	Mostly correct	Nearly correct	Missing
<b>Follows proper format</b>	Font, layout, and spacing are all correct.	One of the components is incorrect.	Two of the components are incorrect.	All components are incorrect.

**TEACHER COMMENTS:**