

Grade 8 Second Prompt

Persuasive Writing a Persuasive Essay

English/ Language Arts Content Standards:

- 1.0 Writing Strategies
- 2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)
- 2.4 Write Persuasive Compositions:
 - a. Include a well-defined thesis (i.e. one that makes a clear and knowledgeable judgment).
 - b. Present detailed evidence, examples, and reasoning to support arguments, differentiating between facts and opinion.
 - c. Provide details, reasons, and examples, arranging them effectively by anticipating and answering reader concerns and counterarguments.

Writing Situation

Your school day is seven hours long, yet many teachers require homework. Does homework help you to learn better? Think about the advantages and disadvantages of homework. Decide whether you think homework should be required or not. (Allow an opportunity for discussion.)

Directions for Writing

State your opinion about whether or not homework should be required. Your goal is to convince your reader that your opinion is “right.” Be sure to include the effects homework has or does not have on your learning, as well as other arguments to support or prove your opinion. Look at the opposing opinion and include some answers for possible arguments from the reader.

Writing and Convention Standards

For this task, students will write a persuasive essay that will:

- a. have a clear thesis that expresses a knowledgeable judgment.
- b. differentiate between fact and opinion.
- c. present detailed evidence, examples, and reasoning to support arguments.
- d. present support in an effective order.
- e. anticipate and answer reader concerns and counterarguments.
- f. support the judgment with devices such as analogies, other comparisons, paraphrases, and quotations.
- g. be organized with a well-crafted lead/introduction, a body, and an effective conclusion.
- h. demonstrate grade level appropriate sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Resources:

Reading/Language Arts Framework for California Public Schools, p. 178

Write Source 2000: Lesson Plans and Assessments, pp. 42-45

Write Source 2000, pp. 115-127

Write Source: Program Guide, pp. 133 – 138

Grade 8 Second Prompt Rubric

Persuasive Writing a Persuasive Essay

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fully addresses the prompt.▪ Is clearly organized in a logical sequence that anticipates and addresses the reader concerns and counterarguments.▪ Is a multi-paragraph composition with an introduction that establishes a controlling impression and has a coherent thesis, supporting details that provide evidence, examples, and reasoning in support of the writer’s judgment/opinion, and a clear well-supported concluding paragraph.▪ Establishes coherence within and among paragraphs through effective transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.▪ Has complete, coherent sentences that use a variety patterns that include compound and complex sentences, using the active voice.▪ Has effectiveness and variety of word choice.▪ Clearly differentiates between fact and opinion.▪ Contains precise language that presents analogies, comparisons, paraphrases, or quotations.▪ Has grade-level appropriate spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation; contains few, if any, errors that do not interfere with understanding the writing.▪ Has fluid, legible handwriting.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Responds to the prompt.▪ Is organized in a logical sequence and may address the concerns and counterarguments of other readers.▪ Is a multi-paragraph composition with an introduction that has a thesis, some details that provide evidence, examples, and reasoning in support of the writer’s judgment/opinion, and a conclusion.▪ Shows consistency within and among paragraphs through transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.▪ Has mainly complete sentences that use more than one pattern that include compound and complex sentences and may use the active voice.▪ Has some variety in word choice.▪ Differentiates between fact and opinion.▪ Contains some effective language that attempts to present analogies, comparisons, paraphrases, or quotations.▪ Has mainly grade-level appropriate spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation; contains some errors that do not interfere with understanding the writing.▪ Has legible handwriting.

<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempts to respond to the prompt. ▪ May lack organization. ▪ May lack proper paragraphing and/or details that show some examples or reasons in support of the writer’s opinion. ▪ May attempt to use transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques. ▪ May have incomplete or incoherent sentences that may use only one pattern; the active voice is not present. ▪ May have little or no variety in word choice. ▪ May not differentiate between fact and opinion. ▪ May contain little descriptive language or few details; may attempt comparisons or repeat reasons. ▪ May contain many errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and/or punctuation that may interfere with understanding the writing. ▪ Has handwriting that is difficult to read.
<p>1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does not respond to the prompt. (May be off topic.) ▪ Lacks organization. ▪ Lacks paragraphs and/or does not include details; does not attempt to persuade the reader. ▪ Contains no transitions and/or conjunctions to connect ideas. ▪ Has mainly incomplete or incoherent sentences. ▪ Contains mainly basic sight words with no descriptive language. ▪ Does not differentiate between fact and opinion. ▪ May contain frequent and numerous errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation that interfere with the understanding of the writing. ▪ Handwriting may be mostly illegible.
<p>BP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blank Paper

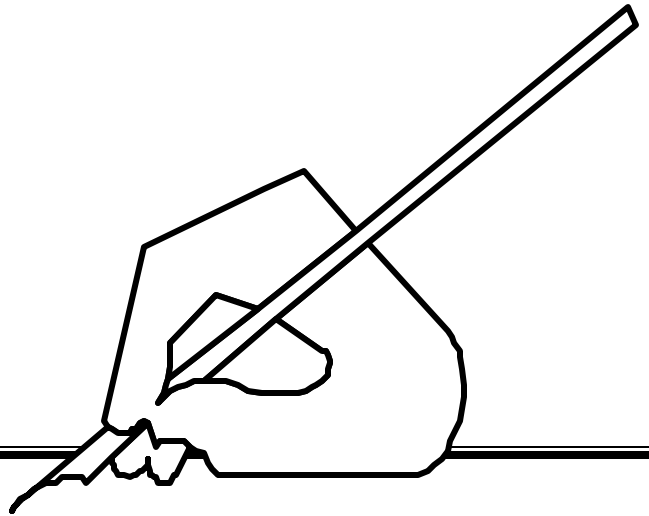
Grade 8
Second Prompt – Student Page
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Writing Situation

Your school day is seven hours long, yet many teachers require homework. Does homework help you to learn better? Think about the advantages and disadvantages of homework. Decide whether you think homework should be required or not.

Directions for Writing

State your opinion about whether or not homework should be required. Your goal is to convince your reader that your opinion is “right.” Be sure to include the effects homework has or does not have on your learning, as well as other arguments to support or prove your opinion. Look at the opposing opinion and include some answers for possible arguments from the reader.



Writing and Convention Standards

For this task, you will write a persuasive essay that will:

- a. have a clear thesis that expresses a knowledgeable judgment.
- b. differentiate between fact and opinion.
- c. present detailed evidence, examples, and reasoning to support arguments.
- d. present support in an effective order.
- e. anticipate and answer reader concerns and counterarguments.
- f. support the judgment with devices such as analogies, other comparisons, paraphrases, and quotations.
- g. be organized with a well-crafted lead/introduction, a body, and an effective conclusion.
- h. demonstrate grade level appropriate sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

There are no 4 samples.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale
Second Prompt, Grade 8
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Rubric Score Point: 3 high

Characteristics that make the paper a high 3:

- a. Organized into a logical sequence.
- b. Thesis statement present.
- c. Provides numerous concrete examples.
- d. Accurate grade level grammar.
- e. Increase the use of transitions.
- f. Does not address the counterarguments.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Work on student identifying three, clear reasons to support each topic sentence decreasing repetition.
- b. Demonstrating how to develop an effective conclusion.

Teacher Notes:

"Why We Need Homework"

Educational experts disagree about the question or value of homework. In this writer's mind, however, homework is an important factor if one wishes to excel in the business world. Like a famous man once said, "Education is like a sport, practice makes perfect." We practice what we learn in school by doing exercises of that subject at home.

By practicing a subject time after time, a person learns to master that subject. After a person has mastered that subject, he or she can then help his or her peers. Homework does not just help one master a subject, though; it also dilates one's memory.

Homework increases one's memory capacity by going over things many times. When one repeats a material over and over, that material is stuck into that person's head like an engraving on stone. Once the material is memorized, the person can then move on to a different subject. The better the memory, the faster the person learns many subjects.

The best thing that homework does for a student is that it makes him or her more independent. While some parents help their kids with their homework, it is

better than they do not, because it forces the child to independently solve all of their problems. This prepares children for the future because it teaches them how to reason and find logic by themselves, just like if they were researching a project for their job.

In conclusion, the reasons stated above for a person to be a successful adult. While homework can be very boring, it teaches the students responsibility, individuality, and increase the memory potential. For example, in writing this essay I had to practice what I was going to write many times. In the end, I ended up with this, a very interesting essay. I also had to become independent of my peers and write this by myself without help to assure originality. Thank a lot homework.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale
Second Prompt, Grade 8
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Rubric Score Point: 3 anchor

Characteristics that make the paper an anchor 3:

- a. Clear thesis statement present.
- b. Excellent use of transitions.
- c. Logical sequence present.
- d. Increase the number of supporting sentences each topic sentence has.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Use analogies or quotations to strengthen the essay.
- b. Increase word choice/variety.

Teacher Notes:

Homework, millions of kids receive homework every week.

It's either essays, reports, packets, or notes to study! Is homework a good or bad thing?

In my opinion I think homework is good. Here's why: homework builds discipline, requires and teaches you responsibility, and helps you understand what you don't know.

First homework builds discipline.

How? Well, I will tell you one reason is because when you want to go somewhere your parents always seem to ask, is your homework done? And if you want to go you make sure your homework is done.

Secondly, homework requires you to be responsible. For example if you have homework due a certain day you will be responsible for turning your homework in and getting it in on time.

And last of all it helps you understand what you don't understand.

If you don't understand something at school but you understand it a little bit you can have more practice at what you don't understand!

So like I said I think
homework is a good thing. And
hopefully I convinced you that
homework is good and not
bad!

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale
Second Prompt, Grade 8
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Rubric Score Point: 3 low

Characteristics that make the paper a low 3:

- a. Clear thesis sentence present.
- b. Some variety of word choice.
- c. Essay has logical sequence.
- d. Strive to match supporting sentences with topic sentences.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Work on repetitiveness of facts and sentences.
- b. Work on verb tense agreement.

Teacher Notes:

"Homework"

I think that homework should be required because without homework what would you get on a test. How would you know how to do your class work. Why have a backpack if your not going to have homework. Forty minutes of class is not enough time.

I think we should have homework, because if you have a test the next day and you can't study at home, or at the library you would fail the test. Then that will mean you need more days out of the school year. Who wants more days out of the school year so that we need homework for.

I think we need homework, because you would not be able to do all of your work in class. So you would also need more time out of the year for school. We would also need more work in class if we did not have homework.

I think we should have

homework, because you would get good grades. You would not be all day in front of the TV. You would learn more when you do your homework. You feel more confident about yourself, you know you can do anything.

In conclusion I think if you do your homework you get smarter, everyday. You won't need to be all mad just because you did not finish your work in class, you can do it for homework. You can study for a test and not fail it. So I believe I need homework.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale
Second Prompt, Grade 8
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Rubric Score Point: 2 high

Characteristics that make the paper a high 2:

- a. Lacks transitions and parallel structures.
- b. Uses proper paragraphing and some details but lacks clear examples in support of the writer's opinion.
- c. Uses a variety in sentence patterns including complex sentences.
- d. Uses little variety in word choice and lacks descriptive language.
- e. Contains an excellent lead.
- f. The writer does not seem to be able to make up his/her mind: lacks supporting details for either side.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Instructing the student in writing a thesis and supporting only that thesis, do not change opinion in the middle of the essay.
- b. Instructing the student in using descriptive language and more details to support a single opinion.
- c. Demonstrating how to develop complex sentences.

Teacher Notes:

I get home from school at about 2:40 pm. All I want to do is sit back and relax and talk on the phone with my friends. You know you have to do it and get it done but you just keep putting it off until you can't do it. It's just about the last thing you want to do after a long hot day at school. Homework, in most cases, is something most kids hate.

Although most kids don't realize it, they are just getting better when they do their homework, at something they learned that day in school. Homework is just practicing what you are learning in class. Even though I absolutely hate homework, I know I am benefiting from it to help get my education.

Being a kid, I must say there are a lot of disadvantages like instead of doing your homework you can be at your friend's house or watching a movie. Even though it would only take 15 minutes to do it, you still don't want to go out of your way of doing something fun to something so long and boring.

It's kind of hard to say whether homework should or should not be required. For me, without thinking about it, I would say they shouldn't have homework. But I do know what's best for me so I do think they should require homework if I don't know what I'm doing in class.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale
Second Prompt, Grade 8
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Rubric Score Point: 2 anchor

Characteristics that make the paper an anchor 2:

- a. Attempts to respond to the prompt, but lacks appropriate thesis.
- b. Attempts to use transitions and parallel structures.
- c. Uses proper paragraphing and details to support opinion although opinion is not clear.
- d. Sentences are somewhat incoherent and lack clarity.
- e. Supports the facts with examples.
- f. Should not begin an essay with “in this essay I’ll tell you…” or conclude with “I have told you…”
- g. Lacks variety in word choice.
- h. Lacks complex sentences.

Additional instructional steps for the writer’s growth would include:

- a. Instructing the student on the do’s and don’ts of a proper lead and conclusion.
- b. Instructing the student on choosing and supporting a single thesis.
- c. Reviewing the rules for capitalization i.e., you don’t need to capitalize a word after a comma (unless it’s a proper noun).

Teacher Notes:

Does homework help me learn more or less? To me homework helps you and it doesn't help you in many ways. In this essay I'll tell you the reasons why I think this, so read on and learn.

Homework is a good thing to me in many ways. Some of these ways are by: Helping you understand what you don't know, helps you bring your grades up, makes you more intelligent, helps you prepare for the future, and also builds discipline. I think this because if you don't know something you learn by trying and some ways of trying is by studying. Studying is another form of homework which is a good thing because it basically concludes everything I said about the good things.

Homework is also a disadvantage because sometimes you already know the information, or you always have to do it at home which takes up your free time, and sometimes it's boring because it's too easy or too hard. I say these because you know when you were a teenager all you wanted to do was have fun. Now all we want to do is have fun by going to parties, dances, or just hang

out. Now as Mrs. Aebuckle says do be a student and do your homework but you're so busy doing other stuff that all there is is to do it at the last minute.

In this essay, I have told you the reasons why homework is to an advantage, and why it's a disadvantage. I know that you teachers probably think that we're lazy but we just wanna have fun.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale
Second Prompt, Grade 8
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Rubric Score Point: 2 low

Characteristics that make the paper a low 2:

- a. Attempts to use transitions and parallel structures, although somewhat unsuccessfully.
- b. Contains little or no variety in word choice, little descriptive language, and few details.
- c. Contains errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation that somewhat interfere with understanding of the writing.
- d. Uses only one sentence pattern.
- e. Uses proper paragraphing, including introduction, supporting paragraph, and a conclusion (although very repetitive).
- f. Includes 3 clear advantages in support of homework.
- g. Does not include any opinions in an attempt to persuade the reader.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Reviewing the rules for capitalization, i.e., do not capitalize words in the middle of a sentence (i.e., Because).
- b. Modeling how to develop a variety of sentence patterns, so that all sentences don't appear to be short and choppy.
- c. Demonstrating how to improve a variety of word choice, particularly at the beginning of a sentence/paragraph, i.e., "another advantage".

Teacher Notes:

I think home work is a advantage beca it will help your grades go hiegr. It will also help you get better at school. It will remind you what you study the day beffore. It will help ~~to~~ improve your skills.

Home work is a advantage becaus it will help you grades go hiegr. With good grades you will get a hiegr GPA with a hiegr grade point average you can graduate

Another advantage of home work is that it will improve your skills at working alone. So when they give you a test, then you'll pass the test becaus you ben working alone with your homework.

Another advantage of home work is that it will remind you what you study the day beffore. Then you can be ready for the next day. If you due the same thing your grade will improve.

Those are the ~~the~~ 3 advantages of home work, these advantages will help you improve your skills and your grades. It will also help you remind what you have learned.

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale
Second Prompt, Grade 8
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Rubric Score Point: 1 high

Characteristics that make the paper a high 1:

- a. Contains mainly basic sight words with no descriptive language.
- b. Lacks paragraphs.
- c. Contains some incomplete sentences, using transitions incorrectly.
- d. Lacks persuasive language, include facts, states only opinion.
- e. Somewhat thoughtful and logical.
- f. Includes nice printing and handwriting.
- g. Lacks details to support opinion or connect ideas.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Instructing the student how to differentiate between facts and opinions.
- b. Teaching the student how to create multiple paragraphs.
- c. Instructing student on the elements and structure of a complete sentence – to include a subject, predicate, and complete thought.

Teacher Notes:

Homework

I would not like to have homework because it takes up half of the day. Right when I get home I always have to do my homework. And then I have little time left because of all that homework. but I do have to get good grades.

Homework part 2

Homework is a big time
li... it does not help you
pass they are just lying

District Writing Sample Scoring Rationale
Second Prompt, Grade 8
Persuasive
Writing a Persuasive Essay

Rubric Score Point: 1 anchor

Characteristics that make the paper an anchor 1:

- a. Lacks organization and clarity.
- b. Does not differentiate between fact and opinion.
- c. Contains frequent and numerous errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.
- d. Has mainly incomplete or incoherent sentences.
- e. Attempts to use paragraphs which include an introduction and a conclusion.
- f. Responds to the prompt and stays on topic.
- g. Does not include descriptive language or facts.

Additional instructional steps for the writer's growth would include:

- a. Teaching basic spelling rules and patterns to increase his/her personal dictionary.
- b. Instructing the student on the elements and structure of a complete sentence including subject/predicate and complete thought.
- c. Instructing the student on how to avoid run-on sentences by using appropriate punctuation.

Teacher Notes:

There are several ways that you have advantages and disadvantages. There are good advantages like if you like doing homework. And the other bad disadvantages are not liking to do ^{the} home work.

There are many disadvantages to were doing your homework. Like one of my disadvantage is that is there wasn't home work that would be beter for allate of over fellow students.

But there are students that have good advantages of doing homework because people want to have home work because some times they get bored at home and they rather be doing homework.

Like me and others of my friend we like to get together and do something instead of home work. So I think that there shouldn't be so much homework.

So I would say that there should not be so much home work because were at school 7 hours and it gets dark in 3 hours after school and for home work is like 1 hour and so its only 2 hours of play. I don't think that's fair that's what I think.