Lesson Blueprints: Writing Project
Resource: Persuasive Writing Prompts and Rubric
Grade Level: Middle and High School

Persuasive Writing Prompts

Persuasive writing argues a point, expresses an opinion, and tries to convince the reader to 'join one's side.' Good persuasive writing includes:

- A stated opinion or arguable point
- Facts
- Sound, specific reasons
- Strong examples to support the case
- Opposing viewpoints with strong rebuttal
- A conclusion reiterating the writer's opinion/argument

The following writing prompts support SEL topics and require all the elements of good persuasive writing:

- Agree or disagree: television violence promotes social violence.
- What cause do you support? In what cause do you actively participate? Write an essay convincing readers to support a cause.
- Convince a reader to become a regular volunteer for an organization.
- Agree or disagree: Americans are addicted to their screen devices.
- Develop an argument for or against a school's right to search your locker for drugs and/or weapons at any time.
- Convince readers to take on a specific habit that will benefit their physical, emotional, or financial health.
- Does texting help people communicate better or is it destroying our abilities to write and carry on conversations with others? Explain and support your position.
- Write an essay describing what students should do to be successful in life.
- Do professional athletes deserve high salaries and bonuses? Explain and support your position.
- Agree or disagree: The United States of America is the best country in the world.
- What is your school's policy on gender specific bathrooms and locker rooms? Where do you stand on this policy?
- Many adults feel that young people no longer feel or exhibit empathy.
- Many people believe that honesty is the best policy. In your opinion, is it ever okay to lie?
- Is a good education a right or a privilege? Why?
- People should be given the opportunity to fail.

Persuasive Writing Rubric

Student: _____

Topic: _____

Category	4	3	2	1	Score
Argument or Opinion	Clearly states an arguable claim or opinion. Proposes a solution, course of action, or a new way to approach the topic.	Makes an arguable claim or opinion but does not propose a solution or a new approach to the topic.	Arguable claim or opinion is confused and/or unclear.	Doesn't state an argument, opinion, or a claim.	
Evidence or proof in support of argument	Gives clear and accurate evidence in support of the claim. Uses logic with facts, statistics, research, and named sources.	Offers supporting evidence but may overlook important reasons. Evidence is not specific.	Gives one or two weak claims that don't support the argument and/or irrelevant or confusing reasons.	Does not give convincing claims in support of the argument.	
Opposing Viewpoints or reason against the argument or opinion	Discusses the reasons against overall argument or supporting claim and explains why it is invalid.	Discusses the reasons against argument or supporting claim but leaves some reasons out and/or doesn't explain.	Suggests that there are reasons against the argument or supporting claim but doesn't discuss any specifically.	Does not acknowledge or discuss the reasons against the argument or supporting claim.	
Organization	Writing has compelling opening, and informative body, and a satisfying conclusion. There is a clear thesis statement.	Writing is organized but opening, body, or conclusion might be missing or is unclear. There is a thesis statement.	Writing is somewhat organized, but sometimes is off topic. May be missing opening, body, or conclusion and/or there is no clear thesis statement.	Writing is aimless and disorganized. There is no clear thesis statement.	
Writing – Technical Grammar, Punctuation and word choice	Student demonstrates excellent presentation skills, style, grammar, and punctuation.	Student's writing style, purpose, audience, grammar, and punctuation are all fair and indicative.	Information is mislabeled or missing; inaccurate punctuation or grammar.	Student's grammar, punctuation, and choice of words are poor.	**Total**