

Eighth Grade

School-Wide Writing Assignment

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____ ES's Name: _____

Persuasive Writing Assignment

Pre-Assignment Writing:

- The school website has the directions for administering this assignment. It also has the scoring rubric, persuasive writing instruction, additional practice prompts, and an optional “mock” practice writing assignment to help prepare the student for this assignment. Go to, <http://www.sscs.cc/curriculum.html>, 2010 Writing Assignment, or talk to your ES.

Directions:

- In this writing assignment, you will hand write (no typing allowed) a five or more paragraph persuasive essay in response to the writing task below.
- After reading the task, take time to plan on a separate piece of paper using memorized graphic organizers, write your essay (double spaced), then proofread and edit.
- To begin gaining pacing experience, students are to attempt to do all or as much of this writing assignment as possible in one continuous sitting.

Scoring:

Your writing will be scored on how well you

- state your position on the topic,
- describe the points in support of your position including examples and other evidence,
- address possible arguments against your position,
- use persuasive strategies and vocabulary,
- use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Writing Task:

Read the following writing task. You must write a persuasive essay about this topic.

Writing a Persuasive Essay

A teacher, a student, and a member of the town council appear on a local TV talk show and debate whether television does more good than harm, or the reverse. The program's host invites his home audience to write in their views. Consider the good and harm done by television. Do you feel that television does more good than harm, or the reverse? What is your position on this issue? Write a persuasive essay giving the reasons you feel television does more good or is harmful. Include and address the arguments others might have against your position.

When you write your essay, remember,

- to state your position on the topic,
- to describe the points in support of your position,
- to address possible arguments against your position,
- to use persuasive strategies and vocabulary,
- to use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.