

Ninth 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 letter 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 letter (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. You may include a salutation and closing, but only the body of the letter will count towards your score.

Writing Task:

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

Writing a Persuasive Letter

People are increasingly using cell phones in public places such as malls, restaurants, doctor offices, grocery stores, et cetera. Your mayor is considering banning cell phone use in some of these public areas. How do you feel about this? What reasons are there to want to ban cell phones in these areas? Think about a specific public area, then write an essay to your mayor, persuading him why he should or should not ban cell phones there. Include and address the arguments he might have against your position.

When you write your letter, 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. You may include a salutation and closing, but only the body of the letter will count towards your score.