

Persuasive Composition: Writing Checklist, Grades 4-12

Refer to this checklist when writing and revising your practice compositions.

This checklist may not be used during the writing assignment session.

This is a checklist for five paragraphs.

Did you...

Show your overall understanding of the writing assignment?

- 1. Did you write a sentence about the issue, problem, or topic?
- 2. Did you state your argument or position about the issue, problem or topic?
- 3. Did you include three or more reasons for your argument or position?
- 4. Did you acknowledge and give a counter-argument to the reader's concern about your position?

Show the organization of the first paragraph?

- 1. Did you write a "hook" sentence to interest the reader in your position?
- 2. Did you write a sentence explaining the issue, problem, or topic?
- 3. Did you write a sentence explaining your position?
- 4. Did you list three or more reasons for your argument or position?

Show the organization of the second paragraph?

- 1. Did you write a sentence about reason #1?
- 2. Did you begin your reason #1 sentence with a transition?
- 3. Did you write two or more detail sentences to explain and support reason #1?
- 4. Did reason #1 and the detail(s) support your position?

Show the organization of the third paragraph?

- 5. Did you write a sentence about reason #2?
- 6. Did you begin your reason #2 sentence with a transition?
- 7. Did you write two or more detail sentences to explain and support reason #2?
- 8. Did reason #2 and the detail(s) support your position?

Show the organization of the fourth paragraph?

- 9. Did you write a sentence about reason #3?
- 10. Did you begin your reason #3 sentence with a transition?
- 11. Did you write two or more detail sentences to explain and support reason #3?
- 12. Did reason #3 and the detail(s) support your position?
- 13. Did you write a sentence or sentences explaining their reasons for not agreeing with you (acknowledge), and then explain why this should not be a problem (counter)?

Show the organization of the fifth paragraph?

- ___ 1. Did you re-state in a different way, your position about the topic?
- ___ 2. Did you re-state in a different way, the three reasons for your position?
- ___ 3. Did you finish by suggesting a solution, or by telling the other person what you would like them to do, or what action you would like them to take?

Use persuasive strategies and vocabulary?

- ___ 1. Did you give your strongest reason last?
- ___ 2. Are your reasons and details convincing enough to change the mind of the reader?
- ___ 3. Did your last sentence give your argument a smooth ending that seemed complete?
- ___ 4. Did you use descriptive transitions rather than simple one-word transitions?
- ___ 5. Did you choose words that are persuasive and show enthusiasm?