

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rubric for Persuasive Writing

Attribute	6	5	4	3	2	1	Points Earned	Comments
Ideas	The clear reasoning is very convincing and informative.	The essay has a clear opinion statement. Persuasive reasons support the opinion.	The opinion statement is clear, and most reasons support the opinion.	The opinion statement is clear. More persuasive reasons are needed.	The opinion statement is unclear. Persuasive reasons are needed.	An opinion statement, reasons, and details are needed.		
Organization	The organization presents a smooth flow of ideas from beginning to end.	The beginning contains the opinion statement. The middle provides clear support. The ending reinforces the opinion.	The writing has a clear beginning, middle, and ending, but one of those parts needs to be strengthened.	The writing has a beginning, middle, and ending, but two of those parts are weak.	The beginning, middle, and ending run together.	The organization is unclear and confusing.		
Voice	The writer's voice is confident, positive, and convincing.	The writer's voice is confident and persuasive.	The writer's voice is confident, but it needs to be more persuasive.	The writer's voice needs to be more confident and persuasive.	The writer's voice rambles on and lacks confidence.	The writer's voice cannot be heard.		
Word Choice	Precise words create a clear message to engage and persuade the audience.	Precise words create a clear message and fit the purpose.	Accurate words create a message. More persuasive words are needed.	More precise and accurate words are needed to create a clear message.	The words do not create a clear message.	Word choice has not been considered.		
Sentence Fluency	The sentences flow smoothly, and the variety of sentences is enjoyable to read.	Variety is seen in both the types of sentences and their beginnings.	Varied sentence beginnings are used. Sentence variety would make the essay more interesting to read.	Varied sentence beginnings are needed. Sentence variety would make the essay more interesting.	Most sentences begin the same way. Most sentences are simple. Compound and complex sentences are needed.	Sentence fluency has not been established. Ideas do not flow smoothly.		
Conventions	This persuasive essay is error free.	Grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors are few and not distracting.	The essay has several errors in punctuation, spelling, or grammar.	Some errors confuse the reader.	Frequent errors make the essay confusing and difficult to read.	Nearly every sentence contains errors.		