

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th Grade Persuasive Essay Rubric

	<b>Advanced</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Basic</b>
<b>Content: Ideas</b>	My essay has an effective thesis (position) that makes a clear and knowledgeable judgment.	My thesis is too narrow, too broad, or not immediately clear to the reader	My thesis is unclear and my position is too broad and generally weak.
	I have effectively supported my thesis with relevant arguments and evidence.	The supporting arguments and evidence I've used is insufficient or irrelevant. My essay lacks explanation and elaboration.	My essay has unsupported generalizations or I've used little to no supportive or credible evidence.
	My essay acknowledges an opposing viewpoint and provides a reasonable counter - argument.	My essay addresses an opposing viewpoint but does NOT provide a reasonable counter-argument.	My essay fails to address any opposing viewpoints or to provide counter-arguments.
<b>Organization</b>	I have used an appropriate structure. I have an engaging introduction. I have presented ideas in a logical progression. My conclusion reinforces my thesis and gives closure.	My essay has a weak structure. It lacks consistency of ideas. Evidence may be isolated facts with weak sequencing.	My essay has little to no structure. My essay lacks a logical progression of ideas.
<b>Voice: Purpose, Audience, and Tone</b>	My voice is confident and authentic. I am clearly engaged with my topic. My writing has a clear sense of audience and purpose.	My essay has straight facts with a voice detached from topic. I have a sense of purpose and/or audience.	In my writing there is no clear or no sense of voice, purpose, or audience.
<b>Word Choice: Diction</b>	I chose effective words and phrases to convey my message.	I have used vague and ordinary words, so my message isn't as powerful as it could be.	I have used a very limited vocabulary or used words incorrectly.

<b><i>Sentence Fluency</i></b>	My essay has strong sentence structure and variety, and I have effectively used transitions to connect ideas.	I have attempted to vary my sentence structure, but many of my sentences sound the same. I have limited use of transitions to connect my ideas.	I write in complete sentences but do not vary the sentence patterns. I have some awkward or faulty sentences. I don't use transitions to connect ideas within my essay.
<b><i>Technical Qualities and Mechanics</i></b>	I have a few minor conventional errors that do not obscure my meaning.	My conventional errors occasionally obscure my meaning.	I have a lot of conventional errors that seriously interfere with the overall effectiveness of my essay.