**Grade 8 Persuasive Essay Workbook – April 27th – May 4th Name:**

**Sequence of the Unit:**

**April 20th-27th:**

**✓ What is a persuasive essay?** It is important to start by investigating what good essays look like. You have all practiced “reading like writers” during our narrative unit in the fall. Now you will apply these skills to persuasive texts. Once you have a grasp of what an effective persuasive essay looks like, you will begin the process of writing your own persuasive essay. **DONE! WOOHOO!**

**April 27th – May 4th:**

* **Choosing a topic.**  You will work on narrowing down a topic that is of interest to you.
* **Collecting Information.** You will learn about research strategies, particularly regarding online sources. You will find three sources of information on your topic.

**Persuasive Writing Process (use this as a checklist as you move through the process):**

* Prewriting:
  + Choosing a topic
  + Researching
  + planning
* Drafting:
  + Writing an effective introduction
  + Writing strong paragraphs
  + Incorporating quotes
  + Paraphrasing
  + Transition words
  + Writing effective conclusions
* Revising and Editing
  + Use the essay skills checklist to revise and edit your piece
* Publishing
  + Typing or printing the final copy

**STEP ONE: PREWRITING**

**Brainstorming a Topic:**

* The first step is to brainstorm a topic for your essay. It is important that you pick a topic that interests you. And remember…your topic needs to be something that can be argued. There should be multiple sides to the topic – you are going to pick a side and try to persuade your reader to believe it.
* **Task:** Brainstorm a topic – your brainstorm can be a web, a list, a word splash – whatever works for you. You may do this in your writers notebook, on the PowerPoint slide, or in this Word document.

**Brainstorm here if you would like:**

**Once you’ve made a final decision on your topic, type it in here:**

**It would be a great idea to email me at this point with your topic idea before you move into the next stage: researching 😊.**

**Researching Your Topic:**

* Once you’ve chosen your topic, you are ready to begin researching your topic online. You should read at least three online sources on your topic.
* Some tips for online research:
  + When you look on the Internet for information, you must choose only appropriate resources. When you use books, half of the work is done for you because the author first has to go through a publisher. This is not the case with the Internet, so you need to be more careful when researching.
  + Do not use information from blogs, chat rooms, or personal websites
  + try to find the websites of associations and organizations involved with your topic. Ex: if ​your topic is the Olympics, find the official site of the Olympics
  + look for the use of formal language -- if language is too informal, it is probably not a reliable ​source
  + if you find an article online, make sure that the author has used quotations, evidence, and ​sources
  + articles from notable newspapers or news stations are also good sources of information ​(ex: Globe and Mail, cbc.ca, Washington Post, New York Times, etc.)
  + start with a specific keyword search at google.ca -- use quotation marks! Ex: "violence in hockey"

**When I find a source of information on my topic, what do I do?**

* + When I first compile my research, I like to print off the articles and highlight them – like we would do for a close reading in our Article of the Week. Sometimes we’re not able to print them off, so we can take notes from the article. When you take notes, you should write down:
* Important information that supports your argument – information that relates to the main idea and supporting details of the article.
* Possible quotes for your essay. Sometimes, what an author says will really stick out to you. In that case, I write it down word for word because I might want to use that as a quote in my essay.
  + You may use the notetaking sheet provided here if you would like:

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| --- |
| **Source (Write the title of the article/website and the URL):** |
| **Notes (important information from the article/website):** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Source (Write the title of the article/website and the URL):** |
| **Notes (important information from the article/website):** |

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| **Source (Write the title of the article/website and the URL):** |
| **Notes (important information from the article/website):** |