**Grade 8 Persuasive Essay Workbook – May 25th – June 1st 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. **DONE! WOOHOO!**

**May 4th – 11th:**

**✓Prewriting.** After you have your information, you will use a position/support web for the preliminary organization of your information.

**✓Writing an Introduction.** You will explore different types of leads, the elements of an introduction, and then you will write your own introduction.

**✓Writing the Thesis Statement.** You will learn how to write a sentence that states your opinion on the topic. **DONE! WOOHOO!**

**May 11th-18th:**

**✓How to Avoid Plagiarism.** In this section, you will learn how to avoid plagiarism in your writing. This includes how to incorporate quotes and put research into your own words.

**✓Writing an Effective Body Paragraph.** You will learn how to organize the body and supporting arguments and details. Then you will complete a draft of the first body paragraph of your essay (the other body paragraphs will be completed next week). **DONE! WOOHOO!**

**May 18th-25th:**

**✓Finish Drafting the Body.** Continue drafting the body of your essay. You need two more paragraphs (or more) to complete the body. There is also a short mini-lesson on using transition words in persuasive writing. **DONE! WOOHOO!**

**May 25th – June 1st:**

* **Conclusion.** You will learn how to write an effective conclusion.
* **Revising and Editing the Rough Copy.** You will complete a checklist for revising and editing your essay.

**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

**Drafting the Conclusion:** What are the elements of an effective conclusion?

* Restatement of thesis
* Reminder of your evidence
* Something to leave the reader thinking/questioning. How do I leave my reader thinking/questioning?
  + Echo ending **(See slide 4 of the PowerPoint for an example)**
  + A story
  + A prediction
  + A pointed question
  + A solution **(See slide 5 of the PowerPoint for an example)**

**Your task:** Draft a conclusion for your essay. Be sure to include a restatement of your thesis and something to leave your reader thinking. You do this in the space below.

**STEP THREE: REVISING AND EDITING**

**Using the “Persuasive Essay Checklist”:**

* You have good skills in revision. I have created a persuasive essay checklist that you can use to guide your revision and editing process.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Skill** | **Yes** | **No** | **Need support** | **Explanation** |
| I have used at least three credible research sources |  |  |  |  |
| I have completed a prewriting plan for my essay (position-support web, chart, something on of my own design) |  |  |  |  |
| My introduction includes a hook and an argument statement. |  |  |  |  |
| My body paragraphs include supporting details. |  |  |  |  |
| I have used proper paraphrasing. |  |  |  |  |
| I have used quotation marks when directly quoting a source. |  |  |  |  |
| I have used at least three transition words/phrases in my essay. |  |  |  |  |
| My conclusion summarizes my argument and leaves the reader thinking. |  |  |  |  |
| My essay has a thought-provoking and relevant title. |  |  |  |  |
| I have used persuasive strategies in my writing (ex: conventional artistry, repetition, appealing to emotion). |  |  |  |  |
| I have edited my writing for conventions (internal punctuation, spelling, proper used of grammatical structures). |  |  |  |  |
| I have used different kinds of sentences, with a variety of lengths and beginnings to create fluidity. |  |  |  |  |
| I have deliberately revised my word choice to include effective and precise vocabulary. |  |  |  |  |