

Scoring Your Student's Writing Placement Assessment #4

Persuasive Rubric

Please score your student's Writing Placement Assessment #4 using the instructions below. This is a persuasive essay, designed to assess your student's ability to write persuasively, not to do research. It is not desirable for your student to complete this test by doing research first.

After reading your student's Writing Placement Assessment, award points using the scoring instructions listed for each section. Then, total all the points.

Structure of Essay

The essay has a clear introduction. (choose one of the following)

- The introduction is a separate paragraph. (award 2 points)
- The introduction is not in a separate paragraph, but there is an introduction of one or more sentences. (award 1 point)
- There is no evidence of an introduction. (award 0 points)

The essay has one or more body paragraphs. (choose one of the following)

- Each reason is explained in a separate body paragraph. (award 2 points)
- The body has one or more paragraphs, but each paragraph does not explain a different reason. (award 1 point)
- The essay is not divided into paragraphs; the essay is only one paragraph. (award 0 points)

The reasons are supported by evidence. (choose one of the following)

- Each reason is supported by evidence in the form of details from the person's life. (award 2 points)
- There is evidence, but the evidence is not connected to a reason. (award 1 point)
- No evidence is given in the student's essay. (award 0 points)

The essay has a clear conclusion. (choose one of the following)

- The conclusion is in a separate paragraph. (award 2 points)
- The conclusion is not in a separate paragraph, but there is at least one concluding sentence. (award 1 point)
- The essay has no conclusion. (award 0 points)



Addresses All Parts of the Task (choose all that apply)

_____ The essay is about one specific individual who is a real person.*
(award 2 points)

**Students who do not name an individual and instead say that everyone or all people deserve this opportunity have not fulfilled the requirements of the test.*

_____ The writer states that the person should be on a postage stamp.
(award 1 point)

_____ The essay includes specific reasons why the person deserves the honor.
(award 1 point)

_____ The essay is persuasive in nature, not merely narrative.* (award 1 point)
**An essay that narrates many details of a person's life or provides a kind of mini-biography without explaining why each of these details is evidence for why the person should be on the stamp does not fulfill the requirement that the essay be persuasive.*

Defends a Position (choose one of the following)

_____ The essay has a clear thesis statement, a sentence that states the writer's position about who should be on the stamp. (award 2 points)

_____ The essay has a thesis statement but the writer's position about who should be on the stamp is not clear. (award 1 point)

_____ There is no evidence of a thesis statement. (award 0 points)

Evidence (choose all that apply)

_____ The body of the essay contains evidence that supports the thesis statement. (award 1 point)

_____ The writer's evidence is accurate, strong, and convincing. (award 1 point)

_____ The writer acknowledges the possibility of an opposing view and explains why his or her position is stronger. (award 1 point)



Clarity, Unity, and Coherence (choose all that apply)

- _____ The writing is clear and easy to understand. **(award 1 point)**
- _____ The writer chooses precise words with the correct shade of meaning. **(award 1 point)**
- _____ The writer uses a mixture of simple, compound, and complex sentences. **(award 1 point)**
- _____ The essay remains focused on the thesis statement, and all sentences and paragraphs support the thesis. **(award 1 point)**
- _____ The essay flows smoothly from one idea to the next. **(award 1 point)**
- _____ Appropriate transitional words and phrases, such as *first*, *finally*, *at the same time*, *another example*, and so on, are used to connect paragraphs. **(award 1 point)**

Conventions/Mechanics (choose one of the following)

- _____ There are no errors in language (grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling) that interfere with the reader's understanding. **(award 2 points)**
- _____ There are some errors in language (grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling) that interfere with the reader's understanding. **(award 1 point)**
- _____ There are many errors in language (grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling) that interfere with the reader's understanding. **(award 0 points)**

**Total all points from each section of the Writing Placement Assessment #4
Persuasive Rubric.**

_____ points out of a possible 26 points.

Please be sure to take the Language Skills Placement Assessment and the Reading Placement Assessment to help make an accurate Language Arts / English Placement at K12.

