

# Scoring Your Student's Writing Placement Assessment #5 Persuasive Rubric

Please score your student's Writing Placement Assessment #5 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 about the holiday. (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 a new national holiday which the student names.  
**(award 1 point)**  
*\*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 essay includes a person or event that will be honored by or celebrated on the new national holiday. **(award 1 point)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ The essay includes specific reasons why the national holiday is justified.  
**(award 1 point)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ The writer uses the strategy of conceding a point. **(award 2 points)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ The essay is persuasive in nature, not merely narrative.\* **(award 1 point)**  
*\*An essay that narrates many details of a person's life or of a specific event without explaining why each of these details is evidence for why the person or event warrants a new national holiday does not fulfill the requirement that the essay be persuasive.*
- \*The writer acknowledges that there is a valid opposing viewpoint and explains why his or her own position is still justified.*

**Defends a Position (choose one of the following)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The essay has a clear thesis statement, a sentence that states the writer's position about why this new national holiday is warranted. **(award 2 points)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ The essay has a thesis statement, but the writer's position about the reason for the new national holiday 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 #5  
Persuasive Rubric.**

\_\_\_\_\_ points out of a possible 27 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.

