

## Persuasive Essay Checklist

Writer: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction...

- ...captures attention.  yes  no
- ...provides background info.  yes  no
- ...contains a **clear opinion statement**...  yes  no
  - ...at the end of the introductory paragraph.  yes  no

Opinion Statement: \_\_\_\_\_

### Body Paragraph #1...

- ...contains a clear topic sentence...  yes  no
  - ...that clearly states the **second best reason**.  yes  no
- ...contains at least two pieces of evidence to support the reason.  yes  no
- ...contains specific evidence...  yes  no
- ...of the following types:  logical  emotional  ethical
- ...develops the evidence with the following:
  - anecdotes  facts  statistics  expert opinions  examples
- ...contains appropriate transitions between pieces of evidence.  yes  no
- ...addresses potential counterclaims.  yes  no
- ...contains a conclusion or transition statement to the next reason.  yes  no

### Body Paragraph #2...

- ...contains a clear topic sentence...  yes  no
  - ...that clearly states the **third best reason**.  yes  no
- ...contains at least two pieces of evidence to support the reason.  yes  no
- ...contains specific evidence...  yes  no
- ...of the following types:  logical  emotional  ethical
- ...develops the evidence with the following:
  - anecdotes  facts  statistics  expert opinions  examples
- ...contains appropriate transitions between pieces of evidence.  yes  no
- ...addresses potential counterclaims.  yes  no
- ...contains a conclusion or transition statement to the next reason.  yes  no

### Body Paragraph #3...

- ...contains a clear topic sentence...  yes  no
  - ...that clearly states **the best reason**.  yes  no
- ...contains at least two pieces of evidence to support the reason.  yes  no
- ...contains specific evidence...  yes  no
- ...of the following types:  logical  emotional  ethical
- ...develops the evidence with the following:
  - anecdotes  facts  statistics  expert opinions  examples
- ...contains appropriate transitions between pieces of evidence.  yes  no
- ...addresses potential counterclaims.  yes  no
- ...contains a conclusion or transition statement to the next reason.  yes  no

**Conclusion Paragraph...**

- ...restates the opinion statement in different words.  yes  no
- ...includes a summary of the reasons.  yes  no
- ...ends with a powerful clincher statement or a call to action.  yes  no

- Sources** are cited at the end of the paper...  yes  no
- ...and are properly formatted, capitalized, and punctuated.  yes  no

**Audience:** Whom does the writer need to convince? \_\_\_\_\_

**Voice:**

- The writer’s voice (tone, persona) is appropriate for the audience.  yes  no
- The writer’s voice seems sincere and genuine.  yes  no
- The writer has taken the risk of showing who s/he really is.  yes  no

**Word Choice:**

- The writer uses mostly strong verbs, not overused ones.  yes  no
- The writer avoids common phrases, clichés, and overworked expressions.  yes  no

**Ideas and Content:**

- The writing is full of **specific**, colorful supporting examples.  yes  no
- The writing is “fresh” and full of interesting, new ideas.  yes  no

**Organization:**

- The order of the arguments (reasons) is appropriate and sensible.  yes  no

What is the best part of this writing? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Make one specific suggestion for improvement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Stylistic Details:**

- The writing contains a properly formatted heading.  yes  no
- The writing is neatly typed, spell-checked, and reasonably free of errors.  yes  no
- The writing contains an appropriate title that relates to the topic.  yes  no
- The writing appears to be a best effort.  yes  no

Discuss the writing and the checklist with a peer evaluator and one of your parents before you complete the final draft.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_