



Grades 9 – 12 Writing: Persuasive Essay Scoring Guide

	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
	Exceeds the Standard	Meets the Standard	Basic Writing	Limited Writing	Minimal Writing
<b>Position</b>	Score Point 5 meets all the criteria listed in score 4. In addition, a paper receiving this score presents unusually perceptive arguments/reasons with richly elaborated supporting details.	Asserts and maintains clear position throughout the piece. Presents reasons, evidence and explanations in a purposeful way.	States a clear position. Presents some purposeful evidence and explanations. May have minor digressions.	Position may or may not be clear. May meander and contain digressions.	May be so brief that position is absent or is difficult to discern. May be long, rambling, and unfocused.
<b>Organization and Coherence</b>	Such papers use language selected with careful attention to persuasive appeal. Writer shows confidence, conviction, and enthusiasm. May present ideas in unusual or surprising pattern. Writer argues effectively for his/her position or uses reasons effectively. Such papers are unusually insightful in anticipating and addressing possible reader concerns.	Establishes a plausible context for the presentation of ideas. Arranges arguments, reasons, and/or evidence effectively and persuasively. Possesses overall coherence and internal cohesion.	Establishes a context. Arranges ideas in simple ways, often relying on lists. Organization may seem imposed rather than organic. Possesses overall coherence, but cohesion between sentences or paragraphs may be weak. May lack effective beginning or ending.	May possess a simple, straightforward organization. May lack a clear beginning or ending.	Shows little logical arrangement of ideas. May be too brief to discern pattern of organization.
<b>Elaboration</b>	Embeds prior knowledge, personal experience and/or reflection into fabric of argument. These exceptional papers show a flair for persuasion resulting from interesting ideas expressed in an original way.	Develops position through carefully detailed arguments and reasons. Provides supporting evidence through a variety of strategies such as examples, anecdotes, and other kinds of information. Shows credibility and authority. Anticipates and addresses possible reader concerns, misconceptions, or counter arguments.	States appropriate arguments or reasons. Provides some supporting evidence for reasons or arguments. Assumes that readers will find their ideas credible. Usually conveys a sense of conviction. May be scant or superficial evidence of reader awareness. Uses appropriate language, but may lack precision	Reasons are thinly developed. Presents some information, but may lack elaboration. May contain irrelevant and/or inappropriate details or examples. Usually does not reflect an awareness of the reader. Language is generally predictable and general rather than precise.	Uses few or no supporting ideas. Rarely any awareness of reader. Language may be inappropriate or inexact.