

## Language Arts — 8th-Grade Writing Assignment

### Persuasive Composition (B)

*Note: This is based on the EMCSD writing benchmark for the 2009-10 academic year.*

- Objective:** Students will be able to write an effective, persuasive essay. (Standards W2.3, W2.4)
- Prompt 1:** You have been asked by your principal to recommend one course which will help you prepare for the job you want in the future. Write an essay to explain to your principal the course you would recommend and why.
- Prompt 2:** Much has been written about the negative effects of television on young people. Write an essay describing a show you feel has a **POSITIVE** impact on today's teens and explain how the show is helpful.
- Assignment:** Read the writing prompts above. Choose one and write a *persuasive essay* about this topic. In this writing test, you will have enough time to plan your response, and write and edit your draft.
- Scoring:** Your writing will be scored using the attached scoring guide.
- Remember:**
- State your thesis.
  - Give details, evidence, examples, and/or reasons to support your thesis.
  - Write one main idea for each paragraph.
  - Include details that both describe and support the main idea.
  - Organize your writing in a logical way and address counter argument(s).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Raw Score: \_\_\_\_\_ Percent \_\_\_\_\_ Proficient \_\_\_\_\_ Non-proficient \_\_\_\_\_

If used as a regular writing assignment rather than an in-class assessment, add the following:

- Assignment:** Be sure to write to one, specific prompt; do NOT wander off topic. Regardless of the prompt chosen, you are to anticipate and address at least one counter argument. Also remember to use specific details, examples, and sound, logical reasons to support your proposition (thesis) and claims, and be sure they support directly your proposition and its associated claims. When centering or indenting, **DO NOT USE** the space bar; if you don't know how to correctly center and indent, then **ASK** the teacher or another student who knows how ... there are to be no exceptions. This assignment is due on \_\_\_\_\_.

- Specs:**
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| <b>Format:</b> Standard Composition                | <b>Citations Page:</b> NO                                    |
| <b>Margins:</b> 1 inch, top, bottom, left, right   | <b>Name, period, date placement:</b> Upper right corner      |
| <b>Alignment:</b> Left or fully justified          | <b>Name, period, date line spacing:</b> Single               |
| <b>Indents:</b> .5 inches for paragraphs           | <b>Illustrations / pictures:</b> Not required                |
| <b>Line Spacing:</b> 1.5 or double                 | <b>Extra space between paragraphs:</b> NO                    |
| <b>Font:</b> Times New Roman, Arial; 11- or 12-pt. | <b>Save copies on your flash drive:</b> YES                  |
| <b>Title:</b> YES                                  | <b>Title Specs:</b> Assigned fonts; 14- or 16-pt.; centered  |
| <b>Turn in all parts of process:</b> YES           | <b>Title Note:</b> 1 or 2 blank lines between title and body |
|  | <b>How to turn in:</b> Hard copies only                      |