

Language Arts — 8th-Grade Writing Assignment

Persuasive Composition (Letter) Compare and Contrast

- Objective:** Students will be able to write and type a well-organized, logical, persuasive composition with a clear thesis or proposition using a standard, non-business letter format. (Standards W2.3, W2.4)
- Prompt 1:** A third-grade student wants a pet. If the choice is between a kitten and a puppy, which would you recommend?
- Prompt 2:** As a homeroom representative in the Columbia Student Congress, which spirit day would you recommend, Black and White Day or Hawaiian Day?
- Prompt 3:** Your basketball coach has offered to buy drinks for the team. Which would you recommend, Monster, and energy drink, or Propel, a sports drink?
- Prompt 4:** It's time for high school registration. Which elective would you recommend, Spanish or French?
- Prompt 5:** Colleges will be asking for a list of your high school activities; your friend, however, is not sure which activity will be more impressive, being on the school newspaper or the varsity basketball team. What would you recommend to him or her?
- Prompt 6:** As a reward for outstanding work at school, your best friend's rich uncle is going to buy him or her a surprise gift, but the uncle needs your advice. Which should he buy, a PSP hand-held game system or a new phone/MP3/video player?
- Assignment:** You will write a persuasive letter in which you attempt to convince someone (your audience) to take a particular action (buy or do something). Feel free to change the underlined, italicized words — however, substitutes must make sense, must be appropriate, and must be approved by the teacher. The letter is to be organized using compare and contrast; that is, you will explore two possible choices. This means that your letter needs to do the following:
- Provide information on how the two choices are alike and different.
 - Make a clear recommendation — based on the evidence — stating which is the better choice and why. In other words, after you have done your analysis, you **MUST CHOOSE ONE AND ONLY ONE ALTERNATIVE**.
 - Make sure you use specific details, examples, and good, logical reasons to support your claims. This assignment is due on _____ .

Specs:

Format: Non-business Letter
Margins: 1 inch, top, bottom, left, right
Alignment: Left or fully justified
Indents: .5 inches for paragraphs
Line Spacing: Single or 1.5
Font: T. New Rom., Arial, Com. S.; 11- or 12-pt.
Title: None
Turn in all parts of process: YES

Citations Page: NO
Name, period, date placement: Upper right corner
Name, period, date line spacing: Single
Illustrations / pictures: Not required
Extra space between paragraphs: NO
Save copies on your flash drive: YES
Title Specs: Does not apply
How to turn in: Hard copies only