

**Writing and Grammar—Grade 8
Rubric for Persuasive Essay**

	<u>Audience and Purpose</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Elaboration</u>	<u>Use of Language</u>
<u>Score 6</u>	Clearly states the author’s position, and effectively persuades the reader of validity of author’s argument	Well organized, with strong transitions helping to link words and ideas	Develops its arguments with specific, well-elaborated support	Varies sentence structures and makes good word choices; very few errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation
<u>Score 5</u>	Clearly states the author’s position, and persuades the reader	Clearly organized, although an occasional lapse may occur	Develops its arguments with specific support	Some sentence variety and good word choices; some errors in spelling, grammar or punctuation, but they do not interfere with reader understanding
<u>Score 4</u>	States a position and adequately attempts to persuade the reader	Is consistently organized, although perhaps simplistically	Provides some elaborated support of the author’s position	Sentence structures and word choices are appropriate; errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation may occur but do not interfere with reader understanding
<u>Score 3</u>	While a position may be stated, either it is unclear OR undeveloped	May have organization in parts, but lacks organization in other parts	The support of the position may be brief, repetitive or irrelevant	Inconsistent control of sentence structure, and incorrect word choices; errors in spelling, grammar, or punctuation occasionally interfere with reader understanding
<u>Score 2</u>	Either a position is not clearly given OR little attempt is made at persuasion	Very disorganized, and not easy to follow	The support of position is not well developed	Problematic sentence structure and frequent inaccuracies in word choice; errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation hinder reader understanding
<u>Score 1</u>	Little effort is made to persuade, either because there is no position taken or because no support is given	Lacks organization, and is con-fused and difficult to follow; may be too brief to assess organization	Lacks support	Little or no control over sentences, and incorrect word choices, may cause confusion; many errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation severely hinder reader understanding

Scoring Model for Persuasive Essay: Editorial on Freedom

Some people argue that freedom of expression ends at the school entrance. Choose an issue involving self-expression, such as school uniforms or the rights of school newspapers. Write an editorial expressing your position on the issue you selected.

Score 6

The writer states a position and effectively persuades the reader with a developed argument, well-elaborated support, clear organization, and strong transitions.

Strong Points:

1. Clearly states position and effectively persuades the reader
2. Well organized, with strong transitions
3. Develops arguments with specific, well-elaborated support
4. Varied sentence structure and good word choice
5. Very few errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Freedom of Expression

I believe that students at school should have freedom of expression when writing a school newspaper. Having this opportunity allows students to show creativity and originality in their writing. Also, a school newspaper is ideal for a student to express their point-of-view to their peers through a way that is both enjoyable to share and read. With a school newspaper, students have the privilege to write about their peers who may be doing great things in the classroom, in sports, and beyond.

First, writing in a newspaper for your school is a fun experience in one's educational career both to write and to share. By doing so, a sense of creativity and uniqueness is expressed and praised throughout the entire school. Fellow students would enjoy reading a weekly issued paper written about their peers from their peers to their peers. It is a way to get information about what is happening in their school.

Next, a school newspaper is a great way for a student to give their point-of-view where it is sure to be heard. They could talk about what might be bothering them or what's on their mind. Whether it be positive or negative, an article written by a student is essential to keep the lines of communication open. If someone scored a lot of points in a school basketball game or if someone is complaining again about the cafeteria food--their point-of-view would be read and considered in their newspaper.

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Score 5

The writer states a position and persuades the reader with an argument developed with effective support.

Strong Points:

1. Clearly states position and persuades the reader
2. Clearly organized
3. Argument developed with specific support
4. Some sentence variety and good word choice
5. Grammar and spelling errors do not interfere with reader understanding

Essay Against Uniforms

Some schools require their students to wear school uniforms. I believe this deminishes our freedom of expression that the constitution has granted us. There are many reasons that I believe this.

As students, we deserve the right to choose what we wear. When we are forced to wear the same thing as everyone one else, students lose creativity and the right to be different from others. School becomes dull and boring when everyone is wearing the same thing.

We are encouraged to be ourselves and have our own personalities. When we are forced to wear the same clothes, how can we still express our individuality? Isn't that like telling everyone to be ourselves but you still need to like and enjoy the same activities? How do people expect us to not be like everyone else when we have to dress alike and cannot express ourselves?

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Score 4

The writer states a position and makes an adequate attempt at persuasion with reasons and examples.

Strong Points:

1. States position and adequately attempts to persuade
2. Moderately clear organization
3. Some developed support
4. Appropriate sentence structures and word choices

Problem Points:

1. Simplistic organization
2. Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Say No to Uniforms

My position on school uniforms is as follows. School uniforms are a violation on students rights. School uniforms make us, the students, think that we do not have the right to express our feelings through clothing.

Many students show pride through the clothing that they choose to wear. For instance some students may be of a different religion. Their religion may require them to wear a clothing of such. When the school forces us to wear a uniform it forces these people to go back on their religion.

Through clothing we can see a student's hobbies, joys, and loves of life. Putting uniforms on violates the right to actually show an opinion. Does the school want to make it so that if they can make us look alike they can make us think alike and maybe even look alike? Is that the real purpose? One adult might argue that these were not reasons at all. But if students are restricted to these things wouldn't they have the urge to break these rules to show that they can rebel? If presenting uniforms it may be a good thing, but you have to see the fact that there could be a chance of rebellion.

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Score 3

The writer states a position but fails to provide development or persuasive support.

Strong Points:

1. Position stated
2. Organization clear in parts

Problem Points:

1. Position not developed
2. Organization not consistent
3. Support brief and irrelevant
4. Inconsistent control of sentence structure
5. Errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation

I picked the subject of freedom of expression. I think sometimes that the freedom of expression does end at the entrance at the school. Some people act, speak their minds more, and dress different, then they do at school.

Most people think that school uniforms would solve their problems, but I don't think it would. It would be taking away from people's individuality and they would be trying to be different from the rest of the kids they go to school with, maybe by getting in trouble. Just because a kid looks like they came from a bad part of town, doesn't mean they're trouble makers. Some people take one look at a person who wears some colors alot, and automatically think that the kid has problems.

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Score 2

The writer attempts to state an opinion but provides only minimal and unrelated support and uses no effective persuasive techniques.

Problem Points:

1. Little attempt at persuasion
2. Disorganized and not easy to follow
3. Minimal support, not well developed
4. Problematic sentence structures
5. Errors in grammar and punctuation hinder reader understanding

I am writing to express my opinion, on students rights and freedom in schools today.

I think that it is important that students in all schools do have rights and freedom such as being able to use the restroom when they are needed and wearing clothes they want and not uniforms. Students work hard and deserve to have rights.

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Score 1

The writer's attempt to state an opinion clearly and support it with persuasive reasons and examples is unsuccessful.

Problem Points:

1. Lacks organization; confused and difficult to follow
2. Little effort to persuade
3. Lacks support
4. Little control over sentences
5. Many errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation

They want make us ware uniforms in school. Army solders ware uniforms and so do police. They ware them for jobs and we go in school so we shuld ware any thing that we want to.