

High School: Persuasive – “Library”

Topic: Your city or town would like to build something for the community to enjoy. **Write a paper to convince** your community that your idea of what to build is the one they should choose.

SCORES AND COMMENTARY

Phrases in bold are taken from the *Official Writing Scoring Guide*. Phrases in italics are taken directly from the student writing.

Ideas/Content 6
Organization 5
Voice 6

Word Choice 5
Sentence Fluency 5
Conventions 5

Ideas and Content:

This paper scores a 6 in Ideas and Content. **The writing holds the reader’s attention throughout. Main ideas stand out and are developed by strong support and rich details suitable to audience and purpose.** *Libraries are places where children can take adventures...it costs nothing...there aren’t any sugary snacks and no long lines.*

- The paper is not a 5 in Ideas and Content because the writing is exceptionally clear, focused, and interesting. This paper has strong support with rich details.

Organization

This paper scores a 5 in Organization. Its **order and structure are strong and move the reader through the text. It has an inviting beginning that draws the reader in** by addressing a library’s role as equalizer in a community. **Details fit where placed** in each paragraph, and the conclusion provides **a satisfying sense of resolution** with the phrase, *for the parents; for the children; for the students; for the future.*

- This paper is not a 6 in Organization because the structure is not compelling, and there are some less-than-graceful transitions between sentences in the first paragraph. *Where else in the community can people of all ages, and races be equal, other than in the library. “Education is the great equalizer of the American people.” What better structure to build...* The conclusion, while satisfying, is not compelling.
- This paper is not a 4 in Organization because the paper moves beyond formulaic with its strongly organized, rich mix of details throughout the paper.

Voice

This paper scores a 6 in Voice. **The writer demonstrates deep commitment to the topic**, as shown in the rich mix of supporting details used to persuade the reader. **The writer demonstrates an effective level of distance from the audience** with phrases such as, *Children have incredibly impressionable minds, and with books the parents are able to exclude the violence...Reading stimulates the mind like television never can.* At the same time, **the writer demonstrates an effective level of closeness to the audience** with personal recollections such as, *When I was younger I spent many many hours in the library, going places my family could never afford.*

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- This paper is not a 5 in Voice because there is an exceptional sense of “writing to be read.”

Word Choice

This paper scores a 5 in Word Choice. **The writer employs a broad range of words that have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact**, such as *promotes equality, the facilities are dated, an increasing need, resources...[not] available at home, a calm environment, etc.*

- This paper is not a 6 in Word Choice because the word choices are not exceptional, nor do they demonstrate a rich range of words.
- This paper is not a 4 in Word Choice because the word choices go beyond being merely functional. The words do energize the writing.

Sentence Fluency

This paper scores a 5 in Sentence Fluency. **Expressive oral reading is easy and enjoyable** with this paper. **Sentence structure enhances meaning** in sentences such as, *When students can succeed, the whole country succeeds, and, We need a new library for our town—for the parents; for the children; for the students; for the future.*

- This paper is not a 6 in Sentence Fluency because the sentences do not consistently show a high degree of craftsmanship.
- This paper is not a 4 in Sentence Fluency because the writer shows strong control over complex sentences, and the reader glides through the text; it does not lack rhythm and grace.

Conventions

This paper scores a 5 in Conventions. **The writing demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions, and errors are few and minor** e.g., *maintinence* instead of “maintenance,” and the use of semicolons instead of commas in the final sentence. **The paper is sufficiently long and complex, and there is little need for editing.**

- This paper is not a 6 in Conventions because it does not demonstrate exceptionally strong control of conventions, and they are not manipulated for stylistic effect.
- This paper is not a 4 in Conventions because there are no significant errors and the minor errors do not impede readability.