

## High School: Persuasive – “Community Pool”

**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 4**  
**Organization 4**  
**Voice 4**

**Word Choice 4**  
**Sentence Fluency 4**  
**Conventions 4**

#### Ideas and Content:

This paper scores a 4 in Ideas and Content. **The writing is clear and focused** on the topic of a community pool. **Supporting details are relevant, although limited and rather general**, *When the kids get really bored and have nothing to do or no where to go then they can go to the pool and splash around with friends...*, and, *...the older adults, they can use the pool to get their daily exercise by doing water aerobics...*

- This paper is not a 5 in Ideas and Content because the supporting ideas do not provide strong, accurate, credible support.
- This paper is not a 3 in Ideas and Content because the writing is clear and focused and the supporting detail is not off-topic or too general.

#### Organization

This paper scores a 4 in Organization. **The order and structure are present but formulaic**, as the writer persuades us to build a pool in the community. The paper includes a **recognizable, developed beginning** (only two sentences), and a **developed conclusion that lacks subtlety**, *So to me this pool is a great idea for the town to build...*

- This paper is not a 5 in Organization because the order and structure are present, but not strong.
- This paper is not a 3 in Organization because the writing is not inconsistent or skeletal, and the order and relationship among ideas is clear.

#### Voice

This paper scores a 4 in Voice. The writing demonstrates **a sense of audience** with the selection of supporting details that appeal to children, families, and older adults. **At times the writing is inappropriately personal**, *I hope you feel that way too...* For the most part, the writer has selected **a suitable level of distance from the audience**, using phrases such as, *Every community has or needs, There are a few reasons why, ...people who love to swim or just to exercise in water...*

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- This paper is not a 5 in Voice because there is not a strong sense of audience or a sense of interaction with the writer.
- This paper is not a 3 in Voice because the writer’s commitment to the topic is not inconsistent.

### Word Choice

This paper scores a 4 in Word Choice. **The words effectively convey the message, with a variety of words that are functional and appropriate to audience and purpose.** Words and phrases such as *a great asset to the community, splash around with friends, there would be seating around the pool for party decor, work* in this paper, even when they **do not particularly energize the writing.** The single use of the slang expression *like (...pool parties like for little kids...)* **does not seem purposeful and is not particularly effective.**

- This paper is not a 5 in Word Choice because the writer has not employed a broad range of words which have been carefully chosen and thoughtfully placed for impact.
- This paper is not a 3 in Word Choice because the language does not lack precision and variety, and it is not inappropriate to audience and purpose.

### Sentence Fluency

This paper scores a 4 in Sentence Fluency. **The writing flows.** *When the kids get really bored and have nothing to do or no where to go then they can go to the pool and splash around with friends, and when it’s hot they can go there to cool off.* The paper demonstrates **strong control over simple sentences,** *There are a few reasons why a community pool would be a great asset to the community,* with **variable control over more complex sentences.** *And also the community pool is great just for a family who wants to go spend a day with the family having fun swimming at the pool.* The paper has **a natural sound, although it lacks a certain rhythm and grace.**

- This paper is not a 5 in Sentence Fluency because the sentences are not carefully crafted, with strong and varied structure that makes expressive oral reading easy and enjoyable.
- This paper is not a 3 in Sentence Fluency because awkward constructions do not force the reader to slow down or reread, and there is more than just little control over more complex sentences.

### Conventions

This paper scores a 4 in Conventions. **The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions.** The only spelling error in the paper is the use of two words instead of a compound word, *no where*. The **internal punctuation is sometimes incorrect.** *Another reason a pool would be nice is for the older adults, they can use the pool to get their daily exercise by doing water aerobics and sitting in the hot tub and it helps them to relax.* The paper demonstrates only a **moderate need for editing.**

## **High School: Persuasive – “Community Pool”**

- This paper is not a 5 in Conventions because the punctuation does not effectively guide the reader through the text, and skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex paper is not demonstrated.
- This paper is not a 3 in Conventions because errors do not impede readability, and it does not contain frequent errors.