

Smarter Balanced, Grades 6 to 11

# Performance Task Writing Rubric, Argumentative

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Correlating Points on the *Traits Writing Scoring Guides, Grades 6-8*

## Organization/Purpose

*The response has a clear and effective organizational structure, creating a sense of unity and completeness. The organization is sustained between and within paragraphs. The response is consistently and purposefully focused:*

- claim is introduced, clearly communicated, and the focus is strongly maintained for the purpose and audience.

In his/her response, the writer:

- creates a piece that is easy to follow by fitting details together logically. He or she slows down to spotlight important points or events, and speeds up when he or she needs to move the reader along.
- influences the reader with sound reasoning and a compelling argument.
- takes a position that is defensible and logical.

*The response includes:*

- consistent use of a variety of transitional strategies to clarify the relationships between and among ideas.

*In his/her response, the writer:*

- includes a variety of carefully selected sequence words and transition words, which are placed wisely to guide the reader through the piece by showing how ideas progress, relate, and/or diverge.

*The response includes:*

- effective introduction and conclusion

*In his/her response, the writer:*

- grabs the reader's attention from the start and leads him or her into the piece naturally.
- sums up his or her thinking in a natural, thoughtful, and convincing way.

*The response includes:*

- logical progression of ideas from beginning to end; strong connections between and among ideas with some syntactic variety.

*In his/her response, the writer:*

- offers credible, accurate details that create pictures in the reader's mind, from the beginning of the piece to the end.
- uses various types of sentences (simple, compound, and/or complex) to enhance the central theme.

## Evidence/Elaboration

***The response provides thorough and convincing elaboration of the support/evidence for the claim and argument(s) including reasoned, in-depth analysis and the effective use of source material. The response clearly and effectively develops ideas, using precise language:***

- comprehensive evidence (facts and details) from the source material is integrated, relevant, and specific.

In his/her response, the writer:

- offers opinions that are well supported by facts and personal experiences. Differences between facts and personal experiences are clear.
- uses only the best evidence to make the strongest statement possible.
- uses words with precision. He or she selects words the reader needs to fully understand the message.

***The response includes:***

- clear citations or attribution of source material.

***In his/her response, the writer:***

- provides enough critical evidence to support the theme and shows insight on the topic.

***The response includes:***

- effective use of a variety of elaborative techniques. (Elaborative techniques may include the use of personal experiences that support the argument[s]).

***In his/her response, the writer:***

- uses many finely honed words and phrases. His or her creative and effective use of literary techniques such as alliteration, simile, and metaphor makes the piece a pleasure to read.
- makes clear his or her reason for creating the piece. He or she offers a point of view that is appropriate for the mode, which compels the reader to read on.

***The response includes:***

- vocabulary is clearly appropriate for the audience and purpose.

***In his/her response, the writer:***

- uses words with precision. He or she selects words the reader needs to fully understand the message. The writer chooses nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and so forth that create clarity and bring the topic to life.

***The response includes:***

- effective, appropriate style enhances content.

***In his/her response, the writer:***

- cares about the topic, and it shows. The writing is expressive and compelling. The reader feels the writer's conviction, authority, and integrity.

## Conventions

***The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:***

- adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling.

***In his/her response, the writer:***

- carefully and creatively constructs sentences for maximum impact.
- handles basic punctuation skillfully. He or she understands how to use periods, commas, question marks, and exclamation points to enhance clarity and meaning.
- uses capital letters consistently and accurately. A deep understanding of how to capitalize dialogue, abbreviations, proper names, and titles is evident.
- forms grammatically correct phrases and sentences. He or she shows care in applying the rules of standard English.
- spells sight words, high-frequency words, and less familiar words correctly.