

**English Language Arts    Brunswick School Department**  
**Grade 8**  
**Persuasive Essay**

<b>Essential Understandings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Effective writing has a developed topic, is organized, uses richness of language, and follows standard English conventions.</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How does a thesis provide direction to a persuasive writing piece?</li> <li>▪ How does examination of both sides of an issue strengthen an argument?</li> <li>▪ How are evidence and analysis combined to make points in support of a thesis?</li> <li>▪ How is an argument concluded?</li> <li>▪ What is the place of voice in persuasive writing?</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A thesis statement is the foundation of a persuasive essay.</li> <li>▪ By anticipating opposing arguments writers strengthen their own position.</li> <li>▪ A well supported essay includes evidence and analysis.</li> <li>▪ An effective introduction engages the reader before presenting the thesis.</li> <li>▪ An effective conclusion offers the reader a new insight.</li> <li>▪ A persuasive piece should reflect the author's voice.</li> </ul>
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Terms:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ voice, persuasion, thesis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Essential Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Write an effective persuasive essay to promote an issue or sustain literary analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ generate an introduction which leads to a thesis</li> <li>○ support thesis with evidence and analysis</li> <li>○ summarize points and share new insights</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Apply revision techniques (Review techniques introduced in grade 7). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ logical flow of ideas</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Apply editing skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sentence variety</li> <li>○ Sentence structure (noun, verb, adjective, adverb)</li> <li>○ Rules of dialogue</li> <li>○ Agreement in number, person, and tense</li> <li>○ Possessives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Related Maine Learning Results</b>	<p><u>English Language Arts</u></p> <p><i>***pending legislative approval of the 2007 revised Maine Learning Results</i></p>
<b>Sample Lessons And Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Model essay ingredients with samples of exemplary work.</li> <li>▪ Use graphic organizers.</li> </ul>

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<b>Sample Classroom Assessment Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Write an essay that demonstrates the knowledge of persuasive strategies and format (scored on a rubric).</li></ul>
<b>Sample Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <u>Publications:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Technology Link</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <a href="http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/curriculum">http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/curriculum</a></li></ul>