English Language Arts

Brunswick School Department Grade 8 Persuasive Essay

Essential Understandings	 Effective writers construct arguments to support a claim with clear reasons and relevant evidence. Persuasive writers address a specific audience for a particular purpose.
Essential Questions	 How does a writer persuade the reader on an issue? How does a writer clearly establish his/her point of view? How does a writer use conceding arguments in a persuasive essay? What persuasive strategies are most useful? How does a writer use evidence to support a thesis? How is a persuasive essay structured?
Essential Knowledge	 A persuasive essay: Is intended to influence the opinions or positions of others. Presents a clearly stated thesis in a compelling introductory paragraph and sustains it through ordered body paragraphs and a logical conclusion. Uses a variety of persuasive techniques, including: logical appeals (facts, textual evidence, statistics), emotional appeals (personal experience, hypothetical examples, images). Includes concessions (alternate views) and briefly refutes the concessions for persuasive effect.
Vocabulary	 Terms: Thesis, persuasion, evidence, introduction, body, conclusion, logical, emotional, concessions
Essential Skills	 Write an effective persuasive essay to promote an issue or opinion. Generate an introduction which leads to a thesis. Present distinct main points in a each body paragraph. Support main points with a variety of evidence and appeals. Summarize points, reaffirm thesis, and present a "call to action" in the conclusion. Revise to include vivid language, persuasive appeals, and effective organization. Edit for correct grammar, usage, and mechanics.

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B. Writing

B1.Interconnected Elements

Students use a writing process to communicate for a variety of audiences and purposes.

- a. Determine a purpose for writing.
- b. Decide which information is included to achieve the desired purpose.
- c. Revise drafts to improve focus, effect, and voice incorporating peer response when appropriate.
- d. Edit for correct grammar, usage, and mechanics.
- e. Write to achieve a specific purpose.
- f. Create legible final drafts.

B4.Persuasive

Students write persuasive essays addressed to a specific audience for a particular purpose.

a. Employ a variety of persuasive techniques, including presenting alternate view objectively or addressing potential counterclaims, in an essay that supports an idea using facts, supported inferences and/or opinions appropriate to the audience and purpose and its intended to influence the opinions, beliefs, oppositions of others.

D. Language

D1.Grammar and Usage

Students manipulate the parts of speech effectively and employ a variety of sentence structures to communicate.

- a. Use forms of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives and their modifiers, adverbs, prepositions, transitions, conjunctions, interjections correctly.
- b. Use compound complex sentences.

D2.Mechanics

Students apply the rules of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling to communicate effectively.

a. Use correct capitalization and punctuation including commas and semi- colons.

Related Maine Learning Results

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Sample Lessons And Activities	 Read and analyze a short personal narrative. Develop characters by physical characteristics, what they do, say, and think, and what others say about them. Create an internal structure that begins with a purposeful lead. Create a series of vignettes that together communicate a message. Write an ending that communicates the larger meaning of the narrative. Use only the important details and parts of the narrative, eliminating unnecessary information. Use figurative language and strong dialogue.
Sample Classroom Assessment Methods	 Draft, revise, edit, and submit a personal narrative. Teacher generated rubrics. Publications:
Sample Resources	o Reviser's Toolbox – Barry Lane