

Persuasive Writing Task – Field Trip to the World

Presenting the Task

In this writing assignment, you will write a persuasive letter to either your science or history teacher. Your writing will be scored on how well you:

- state your position on the topic;
- describe the points in support of your position, including examples and other evidence;
- anticipate and address reader’s concerns and arguments against your position; and
- use grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Writing the Persuasive Essay or Letter

Every year, an organization called *Kids Across the World* selects a science and history teacher from the community and gives them the money to take their students on an educational field trip to any place in the world for two weeks. This year your science and history teachers have been chosen for this very special honor.

Now your teachers are looking for your input on where they should take their classes. If you could take an educational field trip anywhere in the world, where would you choose to go? Write a letter to either your history or your science teacher persuading him or her that your place would be the best. In your letter you should explain which place you would like to visit, why you want to go there, and what you think can be learned from the visit. Give convincing reasons that support your opinion, and address the concerns of those who would argue against your ideas. Explain your reasons with specific details.

Your writing will be evaluated on how well you write an essay that:

- clearly states your position;
- describes the points in support of your position, using clearly written reasons, examples, and evidence;
- anticipates and address reader’s concerns and arguments against your position; and
- uses correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

All your prewriting is to be done on a separate piece of binder paper and will be included as part of your grade.

- STEP #1:** Read the prompt.
- STEP #2:** Brainstorm a list of at least five topics you could write about. Put a star next to the topic you’ve chosen.
- STEP #3:** Make a list of pros and cons for your topic. What are the reasons in support of your proposal? (PROS) What are the reasons against your proposal? (CONS) You should have a minimum of three pros and three cons.
- STEP #4:** Write your thesis statement. In a single sentence, state your proposal.

- STEP #5:** Organize and outline your ideas.

Body Paragraph 1: First reason in support of your proposal (PRO)

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Details:

Body Paragraph 2: Second reason in support of your proposal (PRO)

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Detail:

Body Paragraph 3: Address a counter-argument (CON)

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Details:

- STEP #6:** Write your essay.

Introduction:

- Opener
- Background Information
- Thesis Statement

Body:

- Two paragraphs containing details that will convince the reader of your position
- One paragraph addressing reader concerns.

Conclusion:

- Summary Statement
- Call to Action

- STEP #7:** Revise.
- STEP #8:** Proofread and edit.
- ~~**STEP #9:** Write final draft.~~
- STEP #10:** Read it one last time before turning it in.