

At A Glance:

A one page resource guide for writing and reading persuasive compositions

Purposes of Persuasive Compositions

The persuasive composition -

- Influences others to take some action or to bring about change in opinion
- Argues a position using solid evidence and sound inventive reasoning to support the argument

Characteristics of Persuasive Compositions

The persuasive composition -

- states a definite position. (Important note: On the CAHSEE students may be required to take the position specified in the prompt)
- supports that position with logical arguments and convincing, relevant evidence.
- cites sources of information.
- excludes irrelevant information and arguments.
- arranges the evidence (reasons, examples and anecdotes) effectively and persuasively (CERT)
- anticipates and addresses readers' concerns and counterarguments
- has a reasonable but confident tone
- uses a range of strategies to elaborate and to persuade such as definitions, descriptions, illustrations, examples from evidence and anecdotes.(p.73 Academic Literacy doc.)

Strategies for Development

The teacher instructs writers to -

- Take a position
- Support the position with logical arguments and emotional appeal
- Support the position with evidence
- Use a range of strategies to elaborate
- Maintain an appropriate tone
- Organize
- Avoid fallacious argumentation

Grammar of Persuasive Compositions

The teacher instructs writers to --

(under construction)

Applications

- Testing: CAHSEE Persuasive Essay, UC Subject A Examination, CSU EPT Exam
- School: CAP Controversial Issue, CAP Problem Solution, CAP Speculation about Causes and Effects, CAP Evaluation, editorials and reviews for the school newspaper, speeches and debates
- Beyond School: editorials, voter information booklets, commentary, music, book, and movie reviews, critiques, sermons, advertising, political speeches and literature, analyses of business problems and solutions, grant proposals

California English/Language Arts Standards

Writing Applications 2.4 a-d Write Persuasive compositions

Writing Strategies 1.0, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9

Written and Oral English Language Conventions 1.0, 1.3

Reading Comprehension Standards 2.8