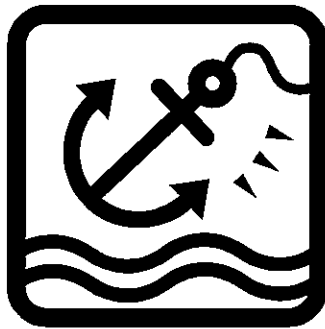


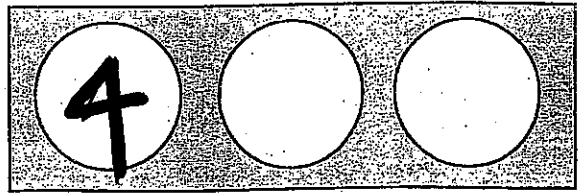
# Oakland Unified School District Writing Proficiency Project



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Persuasive Anchor Papers Single Gender Classes Prompt

Note: Please do not use the anchor papers with students prior to the administration of the Process Writing Assessment

## Writing Sample



Do not write in this box.

**START ESSAY HERE** "Single-Gender  
Classes"

I think that single gender classes would be a good idea in middle schools. Having single gender classes would be good because teachers could work on aspects of learning that a gender may struggle in. Also, more ideas could be shared because that factor of shyness would be eliminated, so opinions wouldn't be lost. Single gender classes would be much more supportive than coed classes.

First of all, science has shown that single gender classes would be better. Female brains develop more quickly, and take in more sensory information. A teacher could work on more reading and other sensory subjects.

Male brains don't develop as quickly as female brains, though they are quicker to learn subjects like mathematics, measurement, mechanics, and geography. Teachers could either work on subjects like reading, which boys typically struggle in, or work on advanced mathematics and geography.

Stress and social life restrict both genders

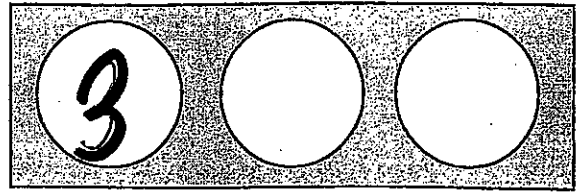
a lot. Boys and girls aren't quick to share ideas and opinions with the opposite sex, but don't usually hesitate when asked to converse with their own gender. Tensions would either be minimal or non-existent. This would be a great advantage, because as a student, I know that it is much easier to share ideas with your own gender. I think teachers would be greatly pleased by children talking about their opinions without hesitation.

Single-gender classes do have some disadvantages, though. Without the other gender present, a less controlled environment may emerge. Typically, boys are more rowdy and physical when alone. But I think this could be easily solved with the presence of more discipline, or maybe just harsher consequences.

Also, the free-flow of opinions may become more of a gossip time, instead of a sharing of information. Teachers would be put under more stress. Discipline could also help to solve this problem.

Personally, I would rather have single gender classes. I wouldn't be nervous about sharing my ideas. Also, some of my

# Writing Sample



Do not write in this box.

START ESSAY HERE

## Single Gender Classes

I am a student in the Oakland Unified School District. I would like to tell you about my point of view towards single gender classes because this idea could effect my days in middle school. I think that we should continue to have coed classes since it has worked out well so far.

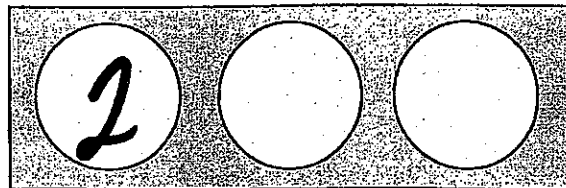
Single gender classes will cause students to miss out on learning from the opposite sex. Girls might have view or ideas about things the boys have never heard of and the same could happen with boys as well. Each gender might be stronger on certain subjects so shouldn't we let the opposite sex learn from them. Students can all learn from each other and become better at school with coed classes.

In same sex classes there is a possibility that students are too comfortable in class with just their own gender. They might talk in class too much and not be able to concentrate in class. Students of the same gender will have more in common so they will have more to talk about.

It is true that student will be able to focus better without the opposite sex but how will they co-exist with each other outside of school and in the real world. Middle school is only a few years and if students don't learn to be around the opposite sex early in life they won't know how to function with each other later in life. How will they be able to work with each other when they are out of school and have jobs? The world has always had two different genders. They need to learn how to live life with each other around.

I think coed education is a better idea than single gender. Students will be able to learn from the opposite sex in coed classes. A single gender class can cause them to talk to each other too much during class. Girls and boys need to learn how to function with each other around.

# Writing Sample



Do not write in this box.

START ESSAY HERE

Dear State Administrator,

I am a Student at:

I want to say that I am  
against single gender classes. They can  
be bad for our health.

I think that we should have  
Coed classes because our activities should  
be shared with both genders. Our classes  
were coed since school started, you don't  
want a mess with history do you? Single gender  
classes can cause distraction because boys  
and boys can talk very easily about personal problems,  
same with girls. But a girl won't talk to a boy  
about personal, personal problems, such as their period,  
Not to a boy!! Never.

Even though it may cause  
bigger distraction in coed, single sex classes  
will eliminate some competition, it may  
help people focus on work other than the opposite

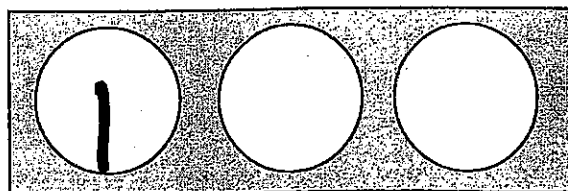
Sex. Girls also may not focus on  
what they wear or what they look like.

But im for coed classes and coed only

I've given all my reasons on  
why we should / should not have single  
gender classes. Again I believe the we should  
have coed classes were we all live  
together because thats what a community  
is, Boy & girl together. That why we  
should have coed classes

Sincerely,

# Writing Sample



Do not write in this box.

START ESSAY HERE

Many people think there should be gender classes, but I think there should be single gender classes. I think middle schools that are coeducational, will have lower scores on tests, for example the Cst. The boys and the girls will concentrate more if there are single gender classes. In addition, boys will participate more than the girls. Also, boys without girls will not be embarrassed more than they already are to do projects. Teachers will focus more on the boys needs in learning. In conclusion, I say there should be single gender classes.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Persuasive Anchor Papers: *Single Gender Classes?*

<i>Paper</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Annotations</i>
"Single-Gender Classes"	4	<p><i>Writing corresponds to a 4 Advanced for the following reasons:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Position is clear, "<i>single gender classes would be more supportive</i>"; presentation is straightforward</li> <li>♦ Ideas are developed through well-organized explanation of scientific evidence, social factors and personal opinion that support point of view; personal anecdotes are authentic and provide convincing support. Tone is confident, "<i>...because as a student, I know it is much easier to share ideas with your own gender.</i>" "<i>I'm sure that more work would be completed and my teacher would be much happier.</i>"</li> <li>♦ Counterargument is presented and addressed, "<i>Single-gender classes do have some disadvantages.</i>" And "<i>I think this could be easily solved by...</i>"</li> <li>♦ Vocabulary is precise (<i>converse, emerge, tempted, eliminate, restrict, typically, pleased, nervous</i>) and persuasive with words like <i>scientifically</i> and <i>learning atmosphere</i> that present a logical appeal. Sentence types are varied contributing to lively, fluent writing. Transitions help the flow of the writing (<i>First of all, All in all</i>)</li> </ul>
Single-Gender Classes	3	<p><i>Writing corresponds to a 3 Proficient for the following reasons:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Announces position, "<i>I think we should continue to have coed classes since it has worked out so far.</i>"</li> <li>♦ Develops three reasons in well-organized paragraphs</li> <li>♦ Addresses reader doubts and provides an additional argument for mixed gender classes, "<i>It is true that student will be able to focus better without the opposite sex, but...</i>"</li> <li>♦ Language is clear and vocabulary is specific (<i>opposite sex, focus, concentrate, function.</i>)</li> <li>♦ Writing shows control of conventions though there are some errors.</li> </ul>
Dear State Administrator,	2	<p><i>Writing corresponds to a 2 Developing for the following reasons:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Position is stated briefly, "<i>I am against single gender classes. They can be bad for our health.</i>" Humor and voice are notable in this paper.</li> <li>♦ Development has some circular reasoning, reasons and examples insufficiently support the position.</li> <li>♦ Writer presents opposite opinion but does address reader questions.</li> <li>♦ Vocabulary is general and there are many errors.</li> </ul>
Many people think...	1	<p><i>Writing corresponds to a 1 Emerging for the following reasons:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Position is stated, "<i>I think there should be single gender classes.</i>"</li> <li>♦ Limited development of arguments; support is brief and a little confusing; conclusion is abrupt</li> <li>♦ Language is general</li> <li>♦ Errors interfere with meaning</li> </ul>