

9th Grade Lesson Plan

College Issues: Persuasive Writing Assignment

I. Objective

The student will develop and draft a concise essay in regards to a critical issue facing today's college going student. The student will gather evidence, take a position, and provide the reader with a legitimate explanation of his/her stance.

II. Lesson Plan

The study of technical writing allows high school students one-half to one credit while developing skills necessary for writing persuasive and informative texts. This rigorous composition course asks high school students to skillfully research a topic or a variety of topics and present that information through a variety of media. Students are expected to: (A) write informative and persuasive texts, including texts, and proposals; (B) apply prewriting strategies to generate proposals, ideas and plans; (C) use effective sequence and transitions to achieve coherence and meaning; (D) use resources such as texts and other people for editing; (E) apply criteria to evaluate writing.

III. Materials

- Writing for College Bound Students PowerPoint
- Internet Access
- Investigative Worksheet (Topics)
- Outline/Brainstorming Worksheet
- Rubric Worksheet

IV. Procedure

Present "Writing for College-Bound Students PowerPoint. Follow guide below as prompted by slides.

- 1) Provide students with the "Investigative Worksheet." This list includes college-related issues of historical or cultural significance. Start a conversation amongst the students as to why this assignment might be beneficial to them in high school and later as a college student.
- 2) In groups of 4-5 (allow students to team up or assign them), students will select different topics to evaluate. Allow time for group discussion and preliminary research.
- 3) Individually, students will use the discussion/research acquired to develop a working thesis statement for their persuasive writing essay. Provide the Thesis Development worksheet.
- 4) An outline of the essay will be required as well. The student will develop main topics for each of their paragraphs. Provide the Persuasive Writing Plan.
- 5) For homework (or in class if time permits), the student should write a 1-3 page persuasive essay addressing one of the topics provided. NO REFERENCES NEEDED. Students can score each other's essays using the Scoring Rubric or teacher can grade.

V. Check for Comprehension

Explain the benefits behind a research/persuasive essay, and the topics, in addition to how this activity could benefit them as college-going students.

1. Why do you think it's important to discuss issues listed on your Investigative Worksheet?
2. How will a persuasive/research essay benefit you as a college student and beyond?

Name: _____

Persuasive Essay: Graphic Organizer

Pick an essay topic that is important to you. State your opinion clearly, giving your reasons with two to three supporting facts. Use this plan to prepare the content of your essay.

Persuasive Writing Plan

Essay Topic

What is your opinion on this topic?

Reason 1:

Why? Support your reason.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Reason 2:

Why? Support your reason.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Reason 3:

Why? Support your reason.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Thesis Development



Topic: _____

Who: Who was involved? Who was affected?

What: What happened? What was the main event?

Where: Where was/were the place(s) it took place?

When: When did it happen? How long of a time period was it?

Why: Why did it happen? What caused it?

Why: Why is it important? What were outcomes?

Put it all together into an argument or thesis statement.

Investigative Worksheet: Crucial Issues on the College Campus

(Choose one topic)



Free Speech on Campus

Define/Explain:

Thesis Statement:

Exploration w/classmates:

Campus Carry

Define/Explain:

Thesis Statement:

Exploration w/classmates:

Affirmative Action

Define/Explain:

Thesis Statement:

Exploration w/classmates:

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Define/Explain:

Thesis Statement:

Exploration w/classmates:

Hazing

Define/Explain:

Thesis Statement:

Exploration w/classmates:

Sexual Assault on Campus

Define/Explain:

Thesis Statement:

Exploration w/classmates:

Persuasive Essay Scoring Rubric

Traits	4	3	2	1
Organization	The introduction is inviting, states the goal or thesis, and provides an overview of the issue.	The introduction includes the goal or thesis and provides an overview of the issue. Information is presented in a logical order but does not always maintain the interest of the audience.	The introduction includes the main goal or thesis. Most information is presented in a logical order. A conclusion is included, but it does not clearly state a personal opinion.	There is no clear introduction, structure, or conclusion.
Goal or Thesis	There is one goal or thesis that strongly and clearly states a personal opinion and identifies the issue.	There is one goal or thesis that states a personal opinion and identifies the issue.	A personal opinion is not clearly stated. There is a little reference to the issue.	The personal opinion is not easily understood. There is little or no reference to the issue.
Reasons and Support	Three or more excellent reasons are stated with good support. It is evident that a lot of thought and research was put into this assignment.	Three or more reasons are stated, but the arguments are somewhat weak in places.	Two reasons are made but with weak arguments.	Arguments are weak or missing. Less than two reasons are made.
Attention to Audience	Argument demonstrates a clear understanding of the potential audience and anticipates counterarguments.	Argument demonstrates a clear understanding of the potential audience.	Argument demonstrates some understanding of the potential audience.	Argument does not seem to target any particular audience.
Word Choice	Word choice is creative and enhances the argument.	Word choice enhances the argument.	There is evidence of attention to word choice.	Word choice is limited.
Visuals/Delivery	Visuals are appealing, highly relevant, and add support to the argument. Delivery is fluent, with an engaging flow of speech.	Visuals are appealing and add support to the argument. Delivery is fluent.	Visuals are related to the topic. Delivery lacks some fluency.	Visuals are not directly related to the topic. Delivery is not fluent.
Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling	There are no errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	There are few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, but they do not interfere with understanding.	There are several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.	There are numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling.

Comments _____
