

## 5 Paragraph Persuasive Essay Scoring Guide

Criteria 200 pts	Above Level 31-40 pts	At Level 21-30 pts	Approaching 11-20 pts	Developing 0-10 pts	Pts
<b>Purpose &amp; Form</b>	<p>Essay demonstrates a strong focus and clear purpose in thesis statement. (to inform, summarize, compare etc.)</p>	<p>Clear main thesis that indicates purpose of essay.</p>	<p>Thesis is evident but supporting details in body paragraphs are only minimally supportive.</p>	<p>The main idea is sketchy and weakly developed.</p> <p>No clear thesis in introduction to indicate purpose</p>	
<b>Supporting Paragraphs</b>	<p>The main idea is complex, sustained and fully developed in each body paragraph.</p> <p>Each body paragraph is very well developed with a strong topic sentence and creative and distinguished supporting details.</p>	<p>Each body paragraph sufficiently and relevantly supports thesis.</p> <p>Each body paragraph is developed with topic sentence and supporting details.</p>	<p>Details in the body paragraphs weakly support topic sentences of paragraphs.</p>	<p>No topic sentences in body paragraphs.</p> <p>Insufficient writing in each paragraph.</p> <p>Evidence is unrelated to argument</p>	
<b>Organization</b>	<p>Organization of essay is logical &amp; creative</p> <p>Paragraphs that have a well linked beginning, middle and end.</p> <p>Excellent use of transitions within paragraphs and linking paragraphs.</p>	<p>Essay is 5 paragraphs.</p> <p>Body paragraphs demonstrate a strong beginning, middle and ending.</p> <p>Clear use of transitions between paragraphs and within them.</p>	<p>Essay is 5 paragraphs</p> <p>Attempts to give a beginning, middle and end with use of transitions in each paragraph.</p>	<p>Essay is not 5 paragraphs</p> <p>Paragraphs have no clear beginning, middle or ending</p> <p>No use of transitions.</p>	

Assign # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_\_\_ Pts \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>Style</b>	Voice is clear, coherent and sustained  Vocabulary is more varied and appropriate for intended audience.  Sentence variety is varied.	Voice is evident and consistent.  Vocabulary is appropriate to the purpose of the writing.  Effective use of some sentence variety.	Voice is recognizable, but weak and not consistent.  Attempting to use creative and appropriate vocabulary.	No distinguishable voice.  Vocabulary is simple but sufficient to convey basic ideas.	
<b>Mechanics &amp; Spelling</b>	Writing is free of all conventional spelling and mechanical errors.	Writing has been well edited.  Occasional spelling & mechanical errors do not distract the reader.	Errors in spelling and mechanics that distract the reader.	No editing apparent.  Many spelling & mechanical errors.	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>					

**NOTES:**

# ALWAYS READ THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY AND BE SURE THAT YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION!

## Absolute **DO NOTS** of Writing an Essay

**DO NOT** use first and second person personal pronouns.

- I, me, you, we, us, etc.

**DO NOT** use "In this essay..." or "This essay will..."

- In this essay, you will see...
- In this essay, It will show...
- In this essay, I will tell you...
- This essay will...

**DO NOT** repeat a sentence using different words to make the essay "long enough."

- The Stamp Act was one of the causes of the American Revolution.
- The American Revolution was caused by taxing the colonists with the Stamp Act.

**DO NOT** use words such as "stuff, like, etc." (The stamp Act was like a tax on legal documents), or other slang words.

**DO NOT** use vague sentences that make no sense if they were standing alone without the essay around it.

- They needed it to survive.
- He needed these things.

### **Instead, use:**

- The Iroquois needed food to survive.
- Washington needed the weapons.
- Try not to use "they, he, these, there ,etc." unless as a transition and referring to an antecedent. USE THE NAME, PLACE, OBJECT in a descriptive way!

**DO NOT** use "below" or "above" when explaining what has been discussed or what will be discussed in the essay.

- In conclusion, above are the reasons for the Boston Tea Party.
- Below, are ways women contributed to the Revolutionary War.

**Instead, use:**

- In conclusion, xxxxxx and xxxxxx are the reasons for the Boston Tea Party.
- xxxxxx and xxxxxx are the ways in which women contributed to the revolutionary War.

**DO NOT** use less than 3 sentences in a paragraph.

**DO NOT** use a person's first name unless you know them personally.

- George was a great president.

**Instead, use:**

- Washington was a great President.
- General Washington was a great President.

**DO NOT** misspell words---especially if they are spelled for you in the essay question.

**DO NOT** plagiarize.

- Do not copy any part of the essay. Use your own words.

**DO NOT** ask a question in your essay.

**DO NOT** begin a sentence with a conjunction.

- (for example: And, But, Because, etc.)

**DO NOT** use contractions in formal writing.