

Eighth Grade Placement Practice: Writing Component

General Writing Directions:

For your 8th grade placement exam, you will be writing a persuasive piece (3–4 shorter paragraphs in length) determining two reasons why people should support a particular idea, as well as opposition you might face, and how you can refute this opposition.

You will be given 2–3 articles to read to help pool quotes from and help support your ideas.

For these practice prompts, you may find two articles that help explain and support your idea of going on your field trip of choice. Use these to gather your supporting evidence. You may also wish to find a website or think of an idea that shows the opposing side, so that you can refute it.

Suggested Structure:

Hook (engage your audience creatively), CX (summary of the “why” basically, before you introduce what you want to do), Claim (Thesis, listing your two ideas)

TS (listing the first idea), CX/CD, CMx2, TS (listing the second idea), CX/CD, CMx2

TS (the major opposition), CX/CD (quote optional here; explain why the opposition exists), CMx2 (explain why the opposition is weak)

CS (a couple sentences to wrap it up/ summarize/ call readers to action).

Practice Prompts:

You may complete these and turn these in to turnitin.com by the end of this week for feedback if you wish!

SAMPLE 1

Writing Situation:

Every year, you and your fellow classmates go on a field trip. The students usually do not like where the school goes for the field trip. You have the opportunity to plan a field trip for your grade level. You will be allowed to decide where you go and what you will do while on the trip.

Writing Directions:

Write a short essay identifying the type of field trip you would like your classmates to go on, and persuade your readers to agree with you. Be sure to support your opinion with convincing reasons and evidence.

SAMPLE 2

Writing Situation:

A wealthy donor plans to build a new facility that will benefit young people in your area. It could be a swimming pool, a theater, a skateboard park, an art school, or any other facility that would provide young people with constructive ways to spend their time. The donor is not sure what kind of facility would be most useful.

Directions for Writing:

Write a short essay identifying the type of facility you would like to have built, and persuade your readers that your building is the best choice for her. Be sure to support your opinion with convincing reasons and evidence.

SAMPLE 3

Writing Situation:

Some educators believe that the use of electronics (like phones and iPads) can be beneficial tools for education, while others do not. Summerville High School is currently deciding if freshmen in particular should be allowed to have iPads. Decide if you think iPads should be used at the freshmen level and explain your reasoning thoroughly.

Directions for Writing:

Write a short essay explaining your opinion. Be sure to support your opinion with convincing reasons and evidence.