

Comparing Persuasive, Opinion, & Argument Writing

Persuasive	Opinion	Argument
Grades K-12	Grades K-5	Grades 6-12
<i>Not</i> included in Common Core State Standards for Writing	Included in Common Core State Standards for Writing	Included in Common Core State Standards for Writing
Goal: to convince reader to agree	Goal: to convince reader you are correct	Goal: to convince reader and call to action or make a change
Frequently speeches May be essays, letters, etc.	Frequently essays May be, letters, speeches, etc. <i>An elementary version of Argument Writing</i>	Frequently essays May be, letters, speeches, etc.
Position	Position	Position
States opinion	States opinion/claim	States opinion, position, thesis, theory
Reasons	Reasons	Reasons
Clearly stated reasons	Clearly stated reasons	Clearly stated reasons
Appeals to audience's <i>emotions, desires, needs</i>	Appeals to audience's <i>logic</i> (facts, statistics, expert evidence)	Appeals to audience's <i>logic</i> (facts, statistics, expert evidence)
Claims don't have to be proven or validated	Claim based on opinion	Claim may be thesis, hypothesis, theory
Evidence	Evidence	Evidence
Evidence from text or other sources	Evidence from text or other sources	Evidence from text or other sources
May include unsupported claims	Always substantiated (based on evidence)	Always substantiated (based on evidence)
May include propaganda or advertisements	Conclusion that restates opinion or position	Conclusion that calls reader to action
Counterclaim / Opposing Point of View	Counterclaim / Opposing Point of View	Counterclaim / Opposing Point of View
Acknowledge alternate point of view (counter claim)	Doesn't necessarily address opposing point of view	Refutes counterclaim
Mostly one-sided	One-sided	Address weaknesses in counter claims
		Exposes holes in counter claims
Conclusion	Conclusion	Conclusion
Influences reader to agree	Convinces reader to agree	Convinces reader to change or act