

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Composition \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
House \_\_\_\_\_

## Persuasive Letter Pre-writing

I chose to write prompt # \_\_\_\_\_.

My audience is \_\_\_\_\_.

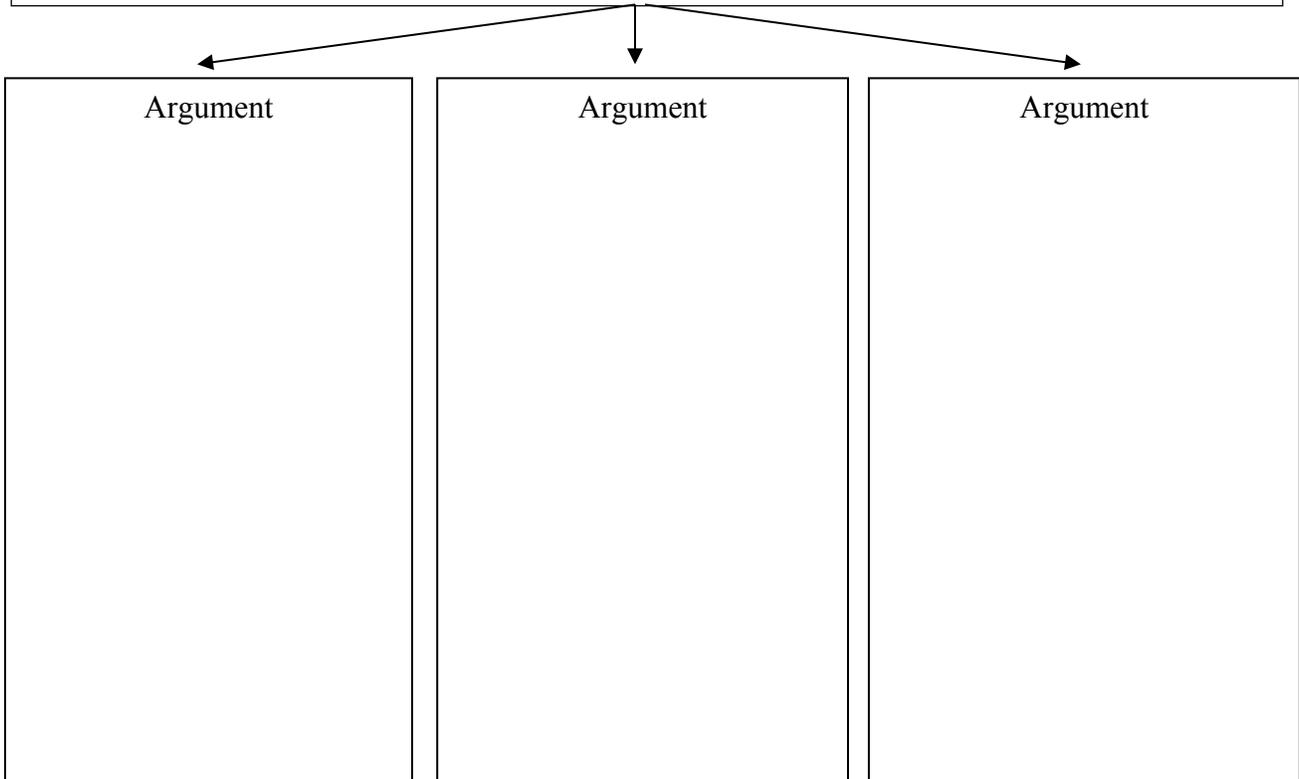
I'll use ethos by saying this about myself:

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**Main idea**



Circle any of your arguments that use **pathos**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Prompt Sheet

### Prompts

1. Your favorite musical artist is coming to D.C. for a series of concerts. S/he has decided to stop at one middle school in the entire city to talk to the students at an assembly. Write a letter to this artist in order to persuade him/her to choose Chavez Prep over other middle schools.
2. Many middle schools require their students to do a certain number of community service hours every year. Mr. Touchette thinks this is an excellent idea, since it will allow students to help out their communities. He has decided that all Chavez Prep students will be required to spend one Saturday every month volunteering in the Columbia Heights region. Write a letter to Mr. Touchette to persuade him that his decision is good or bad.
3. Mr. Fritz has decided to stop brushing his teeth, since he thinks it is a waste of time. Unfortunately, his breath has started to smell terrible! Write a letter to Mr. Fritz to persuade him to start brushing his teeth again.
4. An alien named Zarblatt, from Galaxy SB34, has decided to land on Earth and try to live among humans. She is having a difficult time deciding where to land and make her living. Where on Earth do you think Zarblatt should live? Write a letter to her to persuade her to land in the best place on Earth.
5. A scientific genius from Switzerland, Dr. Cronelian, has discovered a potion that would make you live forever! Do you think that drinking the potion would be a good idea or a bad idea? Write one of the following two letters:
  - a. A letter to convince Dr. Cronelian that all people should have the right to his potion, so we can all live forever.
  - b. A letter to convince Dr. Cronelian to throw away the potion and destroy the recipe, since no one should be allowed to live forever.

Your favorite musical artist cares about:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Touchette cares about:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Fritz cares about:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Zarblatt cares about:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Cronelian cares about:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Composition

House \_\_\_\_\_

## Organization: The Persuasive Letter

### Exemplar

Dear Starbucks,

My name is Ricardo Miercoles, and I have been to your store several times over the past year. I'm writing to ask you to donate some of your profits to green energy.

First, Starbucks is certainly a successful enough company to sacrifice a little bit of profit. I feel that I've seen a new Starbucks pop up in my neighborhood every few weeks for the past year. With all your economic success, why not donate a little to this good initiative?

In addition, you couldn't donate your money to a better place than green energy. With all the emphasis that President Obama has laid on creating new jobs, we must all look to the new frontier of energy technology for the sake of patriotism and our country's well-being.

Finally, donate money to green energy for the image it will give your company. Coffee-drinkers everywhere will be thrilled to visit your shops if they know their money is going to such a good cause. Refresh the face of Starbucks with this new program!

In conclusion, consider giving a bit of your profits to green energy. May I humbly suggest that you start at about 2% of your earnings?

Sincerely,  
Ricardo Miercoles

# 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Peer Editing Sheet

Persuasive Letter

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read your teammate's letter VERY CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY. Then, answer the following questions about the letter and make comments and suggestions below.

The person whose first draft I read is \_\_\_\_\_

## Part I: Basic Essay Parts

Does the letter you're reading have a....	Yes/No	If so, what is it?
Greeting (i.e. "Dear _____,")?		
Main idea?		
First reason?		
Second reason?		
Third reason?		
Send-off (i.e. "Sincerely, _____")?		

## Part II: Specific Details

Does the author use any specific details or examples to explain his/her point? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, write one here:

If no, suggest one here:

## Part III: Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation.

Check through the paper for:

Correct spelling \_\_\_\_\_

Correct capitalization (the first letter of each sentence and the first letter of every proper noun) \_\_\_\_\_

Good end punctuation (periods, question marks, exclamation points) \_\_\_\_\_

Mark up the paper with **editor's marks**—but only where you know you are **correct**.

## Part IV: Final thoughts

Write two **compliments** for the author of the letter:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write two **suggestions** on how to **improve** for the author of the letter:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 1<sup>st</sup> Draft Peer Editing Sheet

Persuasive Letter

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read your teammate's letter VERY CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY. Then, answer the following questions about the letter and make comments and suggestions below.

The person whose first draft I read is \_\_\_\_\_

## Part I: Basic Essay Parts

Does the letter you're reading have a....	Yes/No	If so, what is it?
Greeting (i.e. "Dear _____,")?		
Main idea?		
First reason?		
Second reason?		
Third reason?		
Send-off (i.e. "Sincerely, _____")?		

## Part II: Compound Sentences

Does the letter include a compound sentence yet?

If yes, write it here:

If no, **combine two simple sentences** to make one:

## Part III: Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation.

Check through the paper for:

Correct spelling \_\_\_\_\_

Correct capitalization (the first letter of each sentence and the first letter of every proper noun) \_\_\_\_\_

Good end punctuation (periods, question marks, exclamation points) \_\_\_\_\_

Mark up the paper with **editor's marks**—but only where you know you are **correct**.

## Part IV: Final thoughts

Write two **compliments** for the author of the letter:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write two **suggestions** on how to **improve** for the author of the letter:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Rubric for Persuasive Letter

Requirement	Grade				
Content (a clear main idea and 3 well-developed, well-explained reasons)	1	2	3	4	5
Organization (all the parts of a formal letter, in correct order)	1	2	3	4	5
Correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation	1	2	3	4	5
A wide variety of sentence structures (including at least one compound)	1	2	3	4	5

Total score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

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Requirement	Grade				
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Organization (all the parts of a formal letter, in correct order)	1	2	3	4	5
Correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation	1	2	3	4	5
A wide variety of sentence structures (including at least one compound)	1	2	3	4	5

Total score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

### Rubric for Persuasive Essay

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Score</b>				
A clear main idea, and two strong ways to support that main idea	0	6	8	9	10
The author presents an argument from the other side and then knocks down that argument	0	6	8	9	10
Correct capitalization	0	6	8	9	10
Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation	0	6	8	9	10
Good three-paragraph organization	0	6	8	9	10

### Rubric for Persuasive Essay

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Score</b>				
A clear main idea, and two strong ways to support that main idea	0	6	8	9	10
The author presents an argument from the other side and then knocks down that argument	0	6	8	9	10
Correct capitalization	0	6	8	9	10
Correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation	0	6	8	9	10
Good three-paragraph organization	0	6	8	9	10

# Peer Editing Sheet

Persuasive Essay

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read your partner's essay VERY CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY. Then, answer the following questions about the essay and make comments and suggestions below.

The person whose first draft I read is \_\_\_\_\_

## Part I: Basic Essay Parts

Can you tell what the author's is?	Yes/No	If so, what is it?
Thesis statement (main idea)		
First reason		
Second reason		
Counter-argument (Some people may think that...)		
Third reason?		

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## Part II: Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation.

Check through the paper for:

Category	When you've made all your corrections, check the box here:
Correct spelling	
Correct capitalization	
Correct punctuation (periods, exclamation points, question marks)	

## Part III: Pathos

Can you find an example of **pathos** in the author's argument? (Yes/No) \_\_\_\_\_

If you can, write it here: \_\_\_\_\_

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If not, suggest a place to put one: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Final thoughts

Write one **compliment** for the author of the letter:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write one **suggestion** on how to **improve** for the author of the letter:

2.

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