



GRADE 4/5: OPINION WRITING

Visit a place that is special to you- a park, your backyard, or even the sidewalk on your street! Look for a tree that catches your eye. Sketch the tree and take notes about it, and notice how your tree compares to other trees in the area. When you go back home, try to identify what type of tree it is, using this website to find common KY trees:

https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/common_ky_trees. Once you have identified your tree species, write a one-page essay giving your opinion about what makes your tree so special (if you want, you can use the website to learn about the features of your tree species). Be sure to use proper paragraphs, an introduction and a conclusion, and give lots of detail about your tree!





5 GRADE OPINION WRITING RUBRIC

	Novice	Apprentice	Proficient	Distinguished
Ideas	The essay has facts and details, but no main idea.	The essay has a central idea, but limited facts.	The essay has a central idea and facts that are relevant to the topic. The characters and point of view are clear.	The essay has a central idea, character, and point of view that are clearly presented.
Organization	There is no clear structure or focus of the paragraphs.	The structure of the essay is inconsistent and the timing of events is not clear.	The essay has established paragraphs and a logical sequence of events.	The essay structure is clear and the sequence of events engage the reader.
Voice	There is no voice presented.	The voice presented is weak.	The voice presented engages the audience.	The voice is expressive and engaging and is appropriate for the essay topic.
Sentences	The essay has incomplete sentences which are not clear.	The essay has confusing and run-on sentences.	The sentence structure is clear and correct.	The sentences are correct and flow naturally.
Choice of Words	Words are repeated and not descriptive.	The word choice is not very descriptive.	The essay has nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives that are visual to the reader.	The essay paints a clear visual image and uses creative nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives.
Conventions	There are many spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors in the essay which makes it hard to follow.	There are frequent errors in punctuation and grammar that can distract the reader.	Spelling and grammar are mostly correct and the essay is easy to read.	The essay has very few spelling and grammar errors.



GRADES 6/7: NARRATIVE WRITING

Visit a place that is special to you- a park, your backyard, or even the sidewalk on your street! Look for a tree that catches your eye. Sketch the tree and, when you go back home, try to identify what type of tree it is, using this website to find common KY trees: https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/common_ky_trees. Once you have identified your tree species, write a one-page narrative from the perspective of the tree. Imagine the events that have taken place around your tree in the sequence of its lifetime and tell that story from your tree's perspective. What has your tree experienced? How does your tree feel about its location and the other trees nearby? Be sure to use proper paragraphs, and an introduction and conclusion to the timeline of your tree's life.





6TH/7TH GRADE NARRATIVE WRITING RUBRIC

	Novice	Apprentice	Proficient	Distinguished
Ideas	The essay has facts and details, but no main idea.	The essay has a central idea, but limited facts.	The essay has a central idea and facts that are relevant to the topic. The characters and point of view are clear.	The essay has a central idea, character, and point of view that are clearly presented.
Organization	There is no clear structure or focus of the paragraphs.	The structure of the essay is inconsistent and the timing of events is not clear.	The essay has established paragraphs and a logical sequence of events.	The essay structure is clear and the sequence of events engage the reader.
Voice	There is no voice presented.	The voice presented is weak.	The voice presented engages the audience.	The voice is expressive and engaging and is appropriate for the essay topic.
Sentences	The essay has incomplete sentences which are not clear.	The essay has confusing and run-on sentences.	The sentence structure is clear and correct.	The sentences are correct and flow naturally.
Choice of Words	Words are repeated and not descriptive.	The word choice is not very descriptive.	The essay has nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives that are visual to the reader.	The essay paints a clear visual image and uses creative nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives.
Conventions	There are many spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors in the essay which makes it hard to follow.	There are frequent errors in punctuation and grammar that can distract the reader.	Spelling and grammar are mostly correct and the essay is easy to read.	The essay has very few spelling and grammar errors.





GRADE 8: ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

Trees provide many benefits for us and for the environment. The U.S. Forest Service has many responsibilities related to our nation's trees, including managing more than 190 million acres. Their goals are to keep our forests diverse, productive, and healthy, for today and for future generations. Another component of the role of the Forest Service is to harvest and sell timber. Harvesting and thinning the forest also has many environmental benefits, as well as practical benefits for all of us, who use wood products every day! For the last 20 years, the Forest Service has harvested between 2 and 3 billion board feet of timber. Do you think that the federal government should increase the number of board feet of timber harvested annually in the United States? Write a 2-page essay detailing your argument. Be sure to introduce your claim clearly, present your evidence and use sources to support your claim, discuss any counterclaims, and provide a proper conclusion.





8TH GRADE ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING RUBRIC

	Distinguished	Proficient	Apprentice	Novice
Thesis	The essay establishes and maintains one position.	The essay establishes a position.	The essay provides a vague or inconsistent position.	The essay has no clear position provided.
Organization	The essay is clearly organized and uses appropriate evidence to support the position. The essay has a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.	The essay is organized and presents evidence to support the position. The introduction, body, and conclusion support the position.	The essay shows little organization and presents little evidence to support the position.	The essay is not organized and there is no evidence to support the position.
Content	The essay contains sufficient content that is relative to the theme and appropriate supporting details. The writer clearly considers counterclaims.	The essay contains content that is relative to the theme and some supporting details. Counterclaims are acknowledged.	The essay provides insufficient or minimal content related to the theme and does not acknowledge counterclaims.	The essay provides little to no relevant content and does not respond to the prompt.
Style	The writer uses precise language and effective tone, maintaining point of view throughout the essay.	The writer maintains a consistent tone and point of view throughout the essay.	The writer uses simple language and shifts point of view throughout the essay.	The writer uses repetitive language and provides no point of view.



TREE WEEK 2021: ELA Activities for Grades 4-HS

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LFUCG Parks and Recreation Natural Areas



LEXINGTON
Parks & Recreation



HIGH SCHOOL: NARRATIVE WRITING WITHIN ARGUMENT/INFORMATIONAL WRITING

In Lexington, one issue that has been debated consistently over the years is the urban service boundary and possibly expansion. Our city has what is called a “greenbelt”, which puts limits on how far the city can expand out into the countryside. Certain individuals, mostly developers and business people, have argued that Lexington should allow more development past the greenbelt, as there is not enough land to develop within the urban service boundary. Others, on the contrary, argue that there is still plenty of space to be developed within the boundary, that moving further out into the greenbelt is not necessary, and that expansion would be bad for the environment. Do some research on urban service boundaries, Lexington’s greenbelt, and the pros and cons of further development vs. developing more within the urban service boundary. Write a 2-page essay from the point of view that you agree with most on this issue, writing an argument for your side. Be sure to state the problem(s) or issue(s), the perspectives of all sides, and evidence to support your claims.





HS NARRATIVE WRITING RUBRIC

	Distinguished	Proficient	Apprentice	Novice
Introduction	The introduction is well-developed and engages the reader. The thesis states a clear position.	The introduction has background information and creates interest. The thesis states the problem and the writer's position.	The introduction explains the background but lacks clarity. The thesis states the problem, but the writer's position is not obvious.	The essay has background details that are not structured or related and the thesis position is not clear.
Argument	The essay has three well-developed argumentative points that help to support the writer's position.	The argumentative points are related but may not fully support the thesis.	At least one of the argumentative points is missing support and details.	Most argumentative points are not developed.
Counterclaims	The counterclaims are strong and there is clear acknowledgement of opposing viewpoints.	The counterclaims are present and acknowledge opposing viewpoints.	The writer addresses at least one viewpoint but does not refute the opposing viewpoints.	The write does not present any counterclaims.
Conclusion	The conclusion restates the author's thesis and position in a new way. The audience feels called to act.	The conclusion is a summary of the key points and there is a call to action.	The conclusion is very similar to the introduction and there is little to no call to action.	The conclusion does not revisit the thesis and there is no call to action.
Organization	The ideas are presented in a clear and logical progression and the essay has smooth transitions.	The essay has a logical progression of ideas and transitions are present.	The essay is organized but the transitions do not link ideas together.	There are no transitions in the essay.
Conventions	The writing is coherent and skillful, and sentences are strong. The tone is consistent with the writer's position.	The writing is clear and the tone is appropriate for the writer's position.	The essay is clearly written, but the sentences are repetitive and the tone is not consistent with the writer's position.	The essay is hard to follow and the writing is confusing to the reader. The tone does not match the writer's position.

