

Tiered Activities To Alter the Depth of a Lesson

Subject Area: Language Arts

Grade Level: 7 - 8

Topic: Persuasive Essay

	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Outcome/ Performance Indicators	Students will write a cohesive paragraph with a main idea and supporting details.	Students will state a point of view and cite multiple reasons to defend that viewpoint.	Students will expand the quality of their essay by adding multiple, credible sources of support.
Assessment	Students will describe their opinion about a topic by writing 5-6 detailed sentences explaining their opinion – to be assessed using the NYS independent writing rubric.	Students will use the Learning Activity as a rough draft to develop a multi-paragraph persuasive essay – to be assessed using the NYS independent writing rubric.	Students will write a persuasive essay using multiple reasons, logical explanations and credible sources to support their point of view – to be assessed using the NYS independent writing rubric.
Instruction/ Learning Activity	<p>Students will receive a rubric to help them design and evaluate the cohesiveness of a paragraph.</p> <p>Students will identify their point of view and list 5-6 reasons in support of their opinion.</p>	<p>Teacher will explain/describe the essential elements of a persuasive essay using a graphic organizer.</p> <p>Students will identify a point of view, list 4-5 reasons to support it, and explain each reason with detailed bullets.</p>	<p>Students will learn how to evaluate the credibility of a source and locate multiple sources, quotes, references, etc., to increase the quality of their arguments.</p> <p>Students will develop criteria to identify credible sources.</p>
Resources	List of issues and problems (appealing to students) that have alternate points of view.	List of issues and problems (appealing to students) that have alternate points of view.	Opposing viewpoints series, editorial pages of D&C and USA Today.
Homework	Students will collect good and bad examples of cohesive paragraphs from newspapers, magazines and younger students' work.	Students will collect good and bad examples of persuasive editorials in newspapers and periodicals.	Students will search the web for multiple, credible sources to support their argument.

Pre-assessment: Quick write (short writing sample) a current “hot topic” that is controversial