

4th Grade Opinion (Personal & Persuasive Essay) Writing Prompt

Day before assessment say to students:

Pre-Test

“In the coming weeks you will be learning how to write personal and persuasive essays. These essays will convey your opinion about a topic, along with reasons and evidence that support your opinion. I’m interested in seeing what you already know about persuasive essays.”

Post-Test

“We have spent the last several weeks learning all about how to write personal and persuasive essays. Take a look at all the writing charts that show what you’ve learned about personal and persuasive essays. I’m excited to see how much you’ve learned as essay writers.”

Pre/Post Test

“Think of a topic or issue that you know and care about, as issue around which you have strong feelings. Tomorrow, you will have forty-five minutes to write an opinion or argument text in which you will write your opinion or claim and tell reasons why you feel that way. When you do this, draw on everything you know about essays, persuasive letters, and reviews. If you want to find and use information from a book or other outside source, you may bring that with you tomorrow. Please keep in mind that you’ll have forty-five minutes to complete this, so you will need to plan, draft, revise and edit in one sitting.”

For students in grades 3-8, you will add:

In your writing, make sure you:

- Write an introduction.
- State your opinion or claim.
- Give reasons and evidence.
- Organize your writing.
- Acknowledge counterclaims.
- Use transition words.
- Write a conclusion.

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