Prepare Your Persuasive Essay for Publication

1. Focus

Explain Preparing a Persuasive Essay for Magazine Publication

Say: There are many different types of magazines available for students in middle school. Most of these magazines have departments that accept essays from students, including persuasive pieces. These magazines have guidelines that writers must follow if they want their writing to be published. Let’s look at what some of these guidelines are.

Model Preparing a Persuasive Essay for Magazine Publication

Show students examples of magazines and read aloud sections that tell readers how to submit articles for publication.

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Read aloud the guidelines and discuss them.

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
• Learn strategies for preparing a persuasive essay for magazine publication.
• Discuss group ideas about preparing a persuasive essay for publication.
• Discuss how to apply the strategies to their own persuasive essays.

Preparation

Materials Needed
• Chart paper and markers
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

Gather together examples of age-appropriate magazines that include guidelines for publication. If necessary, copy the sentence frames from “Strategies to Support ELs” onto chart paper.

Guidelines for Publication

1. Target the age of the readers of the magazine.
2. Writing should reflect the content and style of the magazine.
3. Use conversational tone and appropriate current language.
4. Opinions should be supported by up-to-date primary sources. Include bibliography of sources.
5. Create a strong opening, and write using powerful, descriptive words.
6. Submit a typed, double-spaced manuscript by mail. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of manuscript.

Sample Criteria for Magazine Publication

Read aloud guidelines 1–3. Say: This list can help us think about things we need to do if we want to submit a persuasive essay we wrote to a magazine to be published. The first thing on the list is that the essay should be written to the target audience of the magazine—the kids who read the magazine. It’s important that the essay is written to them, using language that they can relate to. Your essay should reflect the content and style of the magazine. The best way to help you with these points is to review back issues of the magazine. Notice the style of the writing. Notice the content of the magazine and check to see if the topic of your essay fits with the kinds of articles the magazine publishes.
Read aloud guideline 4. Say: It’s important to include facts and evidence to support your point of view. Including quotes from your sources helps lend credibility to your writing as does referencing different sources. If you can provide several sources that support your argument, it makes your persuasive essay stronger. Including a bibliography, or list, of your sources makes it easier for the editor to see at a glance whether you have included evidence to support your ideas.

Read aloud guideline 5. Say: Your writing must be at its best. Before submitting it, you should spend time on revising and editing your work. A poorly written or dull essay will not be accepted for publication.

Read aloud guideline 6. Say: Most magazines require that you mail your manuscript rather than e-mailing it. Having a double-spaced, typewritten manuscript makes it easier for the editor to read. If you want your manuscript returned to you, you need to include an envelope with your address and a stamp so the magazine can send it back to you.

2. Rehearse

Practice Preparing a Persuasive Essay for Magazine Publication

Invite students to work with partners to look at the drafts of their persuasive essays, keeping the guidelines in mind.

Share and Discuss

Bring students together and discuss the relevance of the guidelines. Invite students to talk about how well they feel their essays meet the requirements of the guidelines.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that there are certain guidelines we must meet if we are preparing a persuasive essay for publication in a magazine. We need to know exactly what the style and content of the magazine is so we can make sure our writing fits the magazine. We have to look at our writing the way an editor of the magazine would look at it. Keep this in mind as you prepare your persuasive essays for publication.

During independent writing time, encourage students to use the guidelines to prepare a persuasive essay of their own for publication. During conferences, reinforce students’ use of this and other strategies using the prompts on your conferring flip chart.

4. Share

Bring the class together. Invite volunteers to share why they feel their essays meet the criteria of the magazine.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Beginning ELs may not be ready to work on this writing process skill. While other students collaborate on the small-group activity or write independently, meet one on one with students to support developmentally appropriate writing skills based on their independent writing and language levels. For example, you may want to work with students on writing a list of persuasive words.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the practice activity. Support oral language by providing simple sentence frames they can use to talk about their essays:

The audience for my persuasive essay is ______.
My persuasive essay fits the style and content of the magazine because ______.
An example of my conversational tone is ______.