

8th Argumentative 'On-Demand' Performance Assessment Writing Prompt

Note:

- During “on-demand” assessments students should be at their regular writing seats and use paper from the opinion unit. Students should also have access to additional pages if needed.
- Teachers can post the prompt and read it aloud.
- Do **not** give the students a checklist during the pre-test, **only** during post-test.

Argumentative on-demand prompt:

Day Prior to Assessment:

“Think of a topic or issue that you know and care about, an issue around which you have strong feelings. Tomorrow, you will have forty-five minutes to write an argument text in which you will write your 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 another 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 need to plan, draft, revise, and edit in one sitting.”

Day of Assessment:

“Writers, in fifteen minutes you will have a chance to do some argumentative writing. Yesterday, you thought of a topic or idea that you have strong feelings about. Now is your chance to write to convince your readers of your argument.”

“Do not start writing yet. For the next 15 minutes I want you to think about what you are going to write about. If you want to take notes, find information from books or other students, you can. Just make sure you are ready to write about your argument and convince your readers.”

After 15 minutes:

“Now it is time for you to write your argument piece. Remember, you will tell your readers about an idea that you have strong feelings about. In your writing, write your argument and convince your readers by telling them why you feel this way. Use everything you know about argument writing—including letter writing, review writing, essay writing to make this your best argument writing.”

For Students in grades 6-8 you will add:

“In your writing, make sure you:

- write an introduction.
- state your claim.
- give reasons and evidence.
- organize your writing.
- acknowledge counterclaims.
- use transition words.
- write a conclusion.”