

Module 9: Your Voice and the American Dream
Authentic Assessment: Persuasive Paper Rubric

	20 Points	15 Points	10 Points	5 Points
Detail and Comprehensiveness	The paper models an effective use of detail and comprehensiveness focused on a central position regarding the chosen topic. The paper illustrates and rebukes claims that counter the paper's position on the subject matter. Elaboration and explanation of evidence are used to fully justify the argument's main points.	The paper uses adequate detail and comprehensiveness focused on a central position regarding the chosen topic. The paper illustrates and rebukes some claims that counter the paper's position on the subject matter. More elaboration and explanation of evidence is needed to fully justify the argument's main points.	Significant detail and comprehensiveness that focus on a central position regarding the chosen topic are lacking. The paper may attempt to illustrate and rebuke claims that counter the paper's position on the subject matter, but it does not adequately elaborate and explain the evidence to fully justify the argument's main points.	The paper shows little detail and/or comprehensiveness. The paper does not take a clear position regarding the chosen topic. The paper does not address claims that counter any position the paper may take on the subject matter. The paper contains little to no elaboration or explanation of evidence to justify any argument the paper may attempt to express.
Evidence and Information Presented	The paper clearly and fully supports its position on the subject matter with relevant and specific evidence. The paper clarifies possible preconceptions of the subject matter or the paper's position with logical points and effective evidence. Such information is applied to each of the argument's main points.	The paper adequately supports its position on the subject matter with relevant evidence; however, the paper does not fully clarify possible preconceptions of the subject matter or the paper's position with logical points and effective evidence. Such information is applied to some of the argument's main points.	The paper attempts to support its position on the subject matter with evidence; however, some of the evidence may not be relevant or specific enough. The paper does little to clarify possible preconceptions of the subject matter or the paper's position. Some of the argument's main points are not supported with logic or evidence.	The paper provides little to no support for its position on the subject matter. Any evidence that is provided is not relevant or specific. The paper does not address preconceptions of the subject matter or the paper's position. The argument's main points are not logically supported.

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<p align="center">Organization and Expression</p>	<p>The paper is extremely organized and includes an introduction with a thesis that states a clear position. The flow of information is logical with supporting paragraphs that are unified under a central idea with transitional sentences, making the text easy to read and follow. The concluding paragraph effectively brings closure to the paper, drawing insightful conclusions and returning the reader to the paper's central position with a final appeal, resolution, or call to action.</p>	<p>The paper is organized and includes an introduction with a thesis that states a clear position. The flow of information is logical with few digressions and uses supporting paragraphs that are unified under a central idea with transitional sentences. Minor adjustments would allow the reader to more easily understand the paper's argument. The concluding paragraph provides a summary of the argument's main points, draws conclusions, and returns the reader to the paper's central position; however, it does not advance beyond just a summary.</p>	<p>The paper is somewhat organized, yet the introduction or thesis is weak in providing a clear position beyond facts. The flow of the information often digresses, and the lack of a clear central idea and transitional sentences causes a disjointed flow. Significant adjustments would allow the reader to more easily understand the paper's argument. The concluding paragraph is weak in summarizing or drawing conclusions to the paper and merely restates the thesis, leaving the reader to question the central argument and purpose of the paper.</p>	<p>The paper is confusing and lacks organization, failing to provide an introduction with an effective thesis, necessary supporting paragraphs, and/or a conclusion. The flow of information digresses throughout the paper. The lack of an argument, central idea, and transitional sentences causes a highly disjointed flow. Major revisions even to the basic organization of the paper would allow the reader to better identify and understand the paper's argument. There is no concluding paragraph, or the conclusion does not summarize the paper's points, draw conclusions, or allow the reader a clear vision of any argument or purpose of the paper.</p>
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<p align="center">Mechanics, Grammar, Spelling, and Language</p>	<p>There are little to no mistakes in punctuation, grammar, or spelling. A consistent verb tense and point of view are used that are appropriate to the assignment. Sentence structure is highly varied. The language, tone, and voice are specific, deliberate, and appropriate to an identified audience and the subject matter.</p>	<p>There are minor mistakes in punctuation, grammar, or spelling. There are little inconsistencies in verb tense and/or point of view that are appropriate to the assignment. There is some variety in sentence structure. The language, tone, and voice are specific and appropriate to an identified audience and subject matter. Any lapses in this category do not distract the reader from the message.</p>	<p>There are several mistakes in punctuation, grammar, and/or spelling. There are many inconsistencies in verb tense and/or point of view, or they may not be appropriate at times to the assignment. There is little variety in sentence structure. Specific language is not used, and/or the tone is inconsistent. The writer's voice and/or a specific audience is unidentifiable. Any lapses in this category distract the reader from the message.</p>	<p>There are many mistakes in punctuation, grammar, and/or spelling. There is no set verb tense and/or point of view, or they may not be appropriate at all for the assignment. There is no variety in sentence structure. The language is vague, and there is no identifiable tone or writer's voice. The paper does not address an appropriate audience for the assignment. Any lapses in this category prohibit the reader from realizing the paper's message.</p>
<p align="center">Citations and Formatting</p>	<p>Sources of information are properly cited using in-text citations that directly correspond to a Works Cited page so that the reader can determine the credibility and authority of the information presented. MLA style is correctly used in formatting the paper (spacing, font, heading, page numbers, margins, Works Cited page, etc.).</p>	<p>Most sources of information are properly cited using in-text citations that directly correspond to a Works Cited page so that the reader can determine the credibility and authority of the information presented. MLA style is used, but with minor mistakes in formatting the paper (spacing, font, heading, page numbers, margins, Works Cited page, etc.).</p>	<p>Some sources of information are properly cited. The paper uses some in-text citations that directly correspond to a Works Cited page so that the reader can determine the credibility and authority of the information presented. MLA style is used, but with significant mistakes in formatting the paper (spacing, font, heading, page numbers, margins, Works Cited page, etc.).</p>	<p>No documentation of sources or in-text citations is given. The paper does not have a Works Cited page. The paper does not use MLA style in formatting the paper.</p>