

Writing Assessment and Evaluation Rubrics

Name Class Date

Above-average Writing Model

Writing Process in Action: Persuasive Writing (Unit 6, pages 238–241)

Assignment: Write a one-page article that will persuade readers to make or support some change that will protect the environment.

Illinois Needs a National Bottle Bill

Chicago has beautiful parks, streets, and lakefront. But these things are not as beautiful as they could be because they are littered. Empty cans and bottles can be seen almost everywhere. How can we solve this problem of litter in our city? Maybe we can take a lesson from Michigan, which is a very clean state. Michigan has a bottle bill. This bill requires everyone to pay a ten-cent deposit on each canned or bottled drink that they buy. Chicago should pass a bottle bill, too. People like you and me can help make that happen.

Begins by identifying the problem and the action to be taken

The bottle bill works like this: Anyone who buys any drink in a can or bottle pays a ten cent deposit. For example, if a person buys a six pack of pop he or she pays a sixty-cent deposit on the cans at the store. When the cans are empty, anyone who brings them back to the store gets the sixty-cents. The store recycles the cans.

Builds a persuasive argument by presenting important background information

Ten states have bottle bills. Michigan's ten-cent deposit fee is the highest in any state. Some people think this is why the bill there has worked so well. People there return 98.4 percent of the cans and bottles that have a deposit fee to a store. This makes sense. Most people want to get their money back. Even when they don't, other people, such as kids, will pick up littered cans and exchange them at stores for money. That means that streets and beaches stay cleaner. Michigan beaches have less bottle and can litter than any other state in the U.S does. The state's bottle and can litter has dropped 80 percent since the Bottle Bill was passed in 1978.

Supports the argument with facts and statistics

A bottle bill like Michigan's can help us get rid of litter in our city. No matter how young or old you are, you can join in the effort to pass this bill. People who are old enough to vote can sign a petition for a bottle bill and send it to the mayor. Kids who are not old enough to vote can help pass around petitions and spread news about Michigan's success. They can write letters to their alderperson or to the mayor and tell them why the city should pass a bottle bill. Chicagoans can work together to keep our city clean and beautiful. Let's pass a bottle bill!

Provides specific actions people can take to help solve the problem

Summary: *The article uses many strong facts to persuade readers to take a specific action. The evidence is well organized and relevant.*

The article would probably receive a 4 if evaluated by the holistic scoring method. It might receive a 98 if evaluated by the analytic scoring method—35 points for Focus/Organization, 35 points for Elaboration/Support/Style, and 28 points for Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics.