# Writing Tasks that Could Be Used as Part of the Body of Evidence for a Verified Credit in Writing

Writing tasks that could be used with students enrolled in grade 10 English or below in 2018-2019 who are seeking a verified credit in writing are found below. Sample tasks are organized by the type of writing: persuasive, analytical, and argumentative. All choices require reading, and some require additional research and use of media literacy. School divisions decide when or if to use a specific choice depending on the local curricula, reading requirements and student needs. Each of the choices below can be scored using the Virginia Department of Education-developed common rubric for high school writing.

## Persuasive Writing

### Choice: Write a persuasive essay with a viable action step based on research

Read two or more contrasting informational texts including cross-curricular content

(E.g. science or environmental issues, history or political news) and write a persuasive essay including data, evidence, and facts to support your side. Include counterclaims and evidence and argue effectively against them. Conclude with a viable action step based on reading and research. Sharing the findings in a multimodal presentation would enhance the impact of this selection.

### Choice: On demand writing

Choose a piece of literature that has been studied during the academic year. Write a persuasive letter to the editor convincing the public that the book should/should not be removed from the school’s reading list and public library shelves. Incorporate evidence from the text for support.

## Analytical Writing

### Choice: Write an analysis of reviews of an author’s work(s)

After reading several works by the same author, students will read several reviews of the author’s work(s) and determine the qualities and characteristics of an effective review, comparing/contrasting their ideas to those of critics. Students will then write an analysis of the author’s work(s) incorporating information from their own review as well as the critics.

### Choice: Write an analytical essay on a career cluster/path

Research and write an analytical essay on a career path including required education, analysis of workplace trends, globalization, innovation, trends, and salary possibilities. Include specific information on required workplace readiness skills and best educational plan to achieve the career goals. Interviewing/shadowing professionals in the field would enhance the experience.

### Choice: Fiction/Informational Text Comparative Analysis

Choose a work of fiction and an informational text on the same theme or topic. Write a comparative analysis of each work considering such aspects as author’s purpose, voice, theme/main idea, and impact. Choose and defend which text most successfully fulfills the author’s intent.

### Choice: Comparative Analysis of Two Texts

Choose two texts by different authors written during the same period in history from the same geographic location. What is the social commentary each author is making? Analyze which text makes a stronger social commentary and defend the impact of that commentary and its importance.

### Choice: Contrasting Pieces of Analytical Technical Writing

Choose a subject that you know a lot about, but which would probably not be familiar to a broad, general audience. (It could be anything from a skill, an object, or an activity etc.) Write a description, explanation, analysis for a broad, general audience who has no knowledge of this skill. Then write another description of the same thing for a more specialized audience who would be familiar with the thing; this piece will contain more specific information.

## Argumentative Writing

### Choice: Argumentation Using Media Literacy

Choose a current topic evident in the media (e.g. political cartoons, editorials, newspapers, news magazines, social media etc.) Find pieces of media literacy with opposing points of view on the topic. Write an analysis of the varying media messages. Argue as to which media message/platform presented the most objective perspective of the event. A multimodal presentation exhibiting the various viewpoints and media platforms would enhance students’ understanding.

### Choice: Argumentation on a Literary Author

Select the American author to celebrate who has had the largest impact on this country. Consider historical, social, and political aspects of this author’s work. Specify the fiction or nonfiction work(s) to be included in this honor. Explain why specific work(s) are included in this award and what the author’s lasting impact is in the United States. Argue why this author should be chosen above all other American authors.

### Choice: Argumentation Editorial

Select a current topic that concerns students and about which you are passionate. (E.g. social media, technology, educational choices and restrictions, the arts, media, gender issues, race issues, sports, politics, the legal system, health and nutrition, science, etc.) Research the topic. Write an editorial or letter to the editor arguing your position supported with facts and evidence. Submitting the essays to a local newspaper, student newspaper, or *The* *New York Times* Student Opinion Feature would enhance the experience.