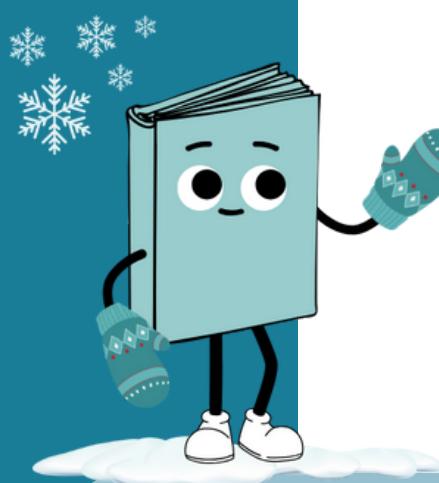


# Would You Rather...

## PERSUASIVE WRITING WORKSHEETS



CREATED BY THE WORD NERD



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# TAKEAWAYS

Even silly prompts ("Would you rather have pizza every day or ice cream every day?") still help students practice the serious structure of argumentative writing—without the intimidation of "real" essay topics. This lowers the stakes while reinforcing core skills.

## WE WANT STUDENTS TO BE ABLE TO:

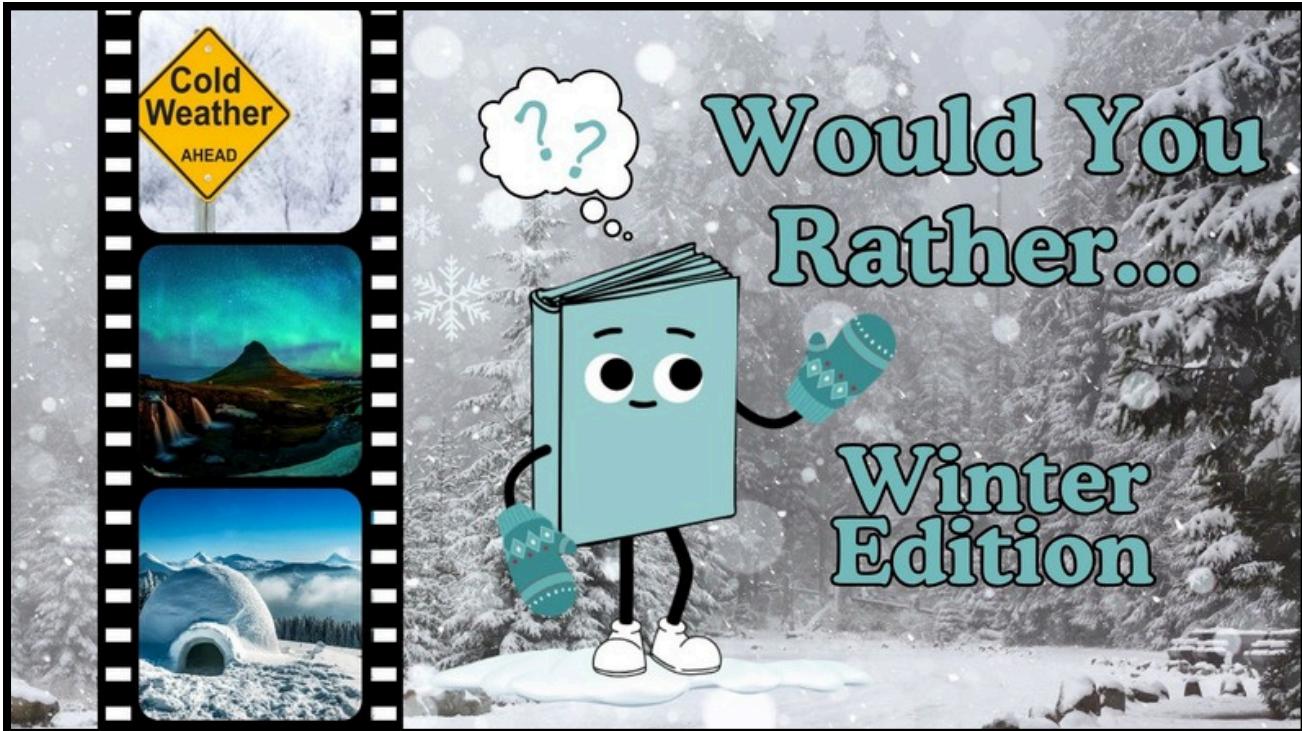
- Choosing a side → Making a clear claim.
- Backing it up → Giving 2-3 strong reasons with evidence or examples.
- Using transitions → Showing relationships between ideas.
- Acknowledging the other side → Strengthening their argument.
- Concluding clearly → Wrapping up their reasoning in a persuasive way.



**SPARK STUDENT  
ENGAGEMENT -  
START WITH THE VIDEO!**



[Video Link](#)



# STANDARDS IN ACTION

## **W.6.1 – Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.**

- Students should learn to:
  - Make a claim → choose one option in their “Would You Rather?”
  - Give reasons → explain why they chose it.
  - Use evidence/examples → support their reasoning with logic, facts, or even life experience.
  - Acknowledge the other side → briefly explain why someone might choose differently, and why their choice is stronger.

### **W.6.1a – Introduce claims clearly, organize reasons and evidence.**

- Skill Focus: Write an introductory sentence that states their choice.
- Ex: “I would rather be a ballerina than a weightlifter because it fits my personality and challenges me in new ways.”

### **W.6.1b – Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence.**

- Skill Focus: Develop 2-3 strong reasons with examples or explanations.
- Ex: “Dancing allows me to express myself creatively, and it’s also excellent exercise.”

### **W.6.1c – Use words, phrases, and clauses to clarify relationships among claims, reasons, and evidence.**

- Skill Focus: Use transition words like for example, in addition, because, however, and therefore to guide readers.

### **W.6.1d – Establish and maintain a formal style.**

- Skill Focus: Write in a clear, academic voice (not “texting language”), even if the topic is silly.
- Ex: “I’d choose...” instead of “Because it’s cool.”

### **W.6.1e – Provide a concluding statement or section.**

- Skill Focus: Wrap up by restating the claim and leaving a final thought.
- Ex: “For these reasons, being a ballerina would be a better fit for me than being a weightlifter.”



# GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



My Name:

Name of classmate I am reviewing:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Piece/Date Written



## GEMS

LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

## OPPORTUNITIES

LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

## FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

# GEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



My Name:  
Name of classmate I am reviewing:  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Piece/Date Written

OPPORTUNITIES	
LIST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WRITER TO IMPROVE	
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LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Piece/Date Written

GEMS	
LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL	
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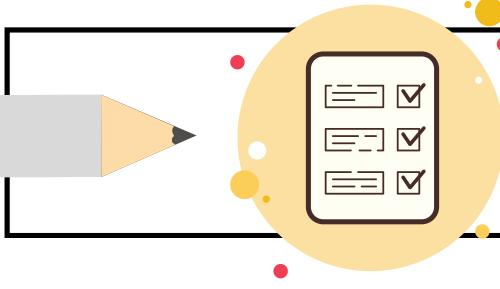
LIST SEVERAL THINGS THE WRITERS DOES WELL

# FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:

# FINAL COMMENTS

WRITE ANY FINAL COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK HERE:



# JOURNAL WRITING RUBRIC

Use this rubric to first communicate your writing expectations to students and then to evaluate the writing products they create. Students and/or peers can also use this rubric to self/peer score/evaluate the pieces of writing.

The rubric can be found at the bottom of each prompt for easy access for both you and your students. There is also a page with 3 rubrics to print and cut for use with this or other writing tasks.

I assign 2 points if the task was completed and done well, 1 if the task was attempted but not mastered, and 0 if the task was not attempted at all.

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = \_\_\_/10

**Again, the Writing CCSS routinely covered and practiced with these prompts include:**

W 6-8.2, W 6-8.3, W 6-8.4, W 6-8.5, W 6-8.9, W 6-8.10

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

**Total Points = \_\_\_/10**

Comments:

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

**Total Points = \_\_\_/10**

Comments:

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

**Total Points = \_\_\_/10**

Comments:



# BUILD YOUR CASE

You've made your choice... now it's time to convince someone else to agree with you! Use this organizer to help plan and write your persuasive paragraph. Strong persuasive writers make a claim, give clear reasons, support their ideas, and wrap it all up like a pro!

## FOLLOW THESE STEPS!

### Step 1: Make Your Claim

Write a strong opening sentence that clearly states your answer to the Would You Rather question.

Example: I would rather live in a treehouse than on a boat because I love nature and dislike water.

### Step 2: Give Your Reasons

List 2-3 strong reasons why you chose your answer. Add examples or explanations for each one.

### Step 3: Use Transitions

Use words like because, for example, in addition, also, however, even though to connect your ideas and make your writing flow.

### Step 4: Think About the Other Side

Can you think of why someone might choose the other option? Briefly explain why your choice is still the better one.

Example: Some people might say... But I think...

### Step 5: Wrap It Up

Write a conclusion sentence that restates your choice and leaves the reader convinced.

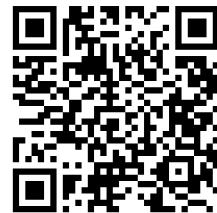
Example: That's why I would definitely rather live in a treehouse!

# WOULD YOU RATHER?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



VIDEO



[Video Link](#)

**Directions: As you watch the video, circle your preferred choice and then follow the physical cue on screen!**

1. Would you rather go sledding or ice skating?
2. Would you rather have hot cocoa with marshmallows or whip cream?
3. Would you rather have a pet penguin or reindeer?
4. Would you rather compete in the Olympic event of bobsled or luge?
5. Would you rather sleep in an igloo or an ice castle?
6. Would you rather face an abominable snowman or a polar bear?
7. Would you rather have frozen fingers or frozen toes?
8. Would you rather be an Antarctic Zoologist or an Ice Sculptor?
9. Would you rather live somewhere that was always winter or never winter?
10. Would you rather spend a winter night by the fireplace with a good book or outside under the stars watching the aurora borealis?

**Respond: Which would you rather match up do you have the strongest feelings about? Why?**

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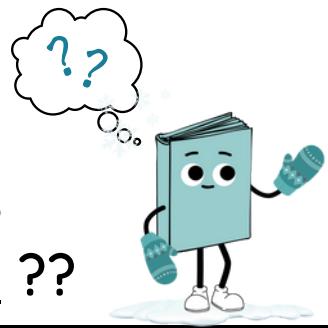
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

or \_\_\_\_\_ ??



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = \_\_\_/10

## Comments

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

go sledding or ice skating?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



### ▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
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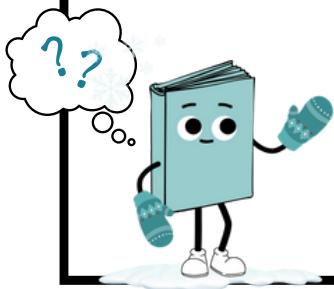
# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

have hot cocoa with marshmallows or whip cream?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = \_\_\_/10

### Comments:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

have a pet penguin or reindeer?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.

▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

—

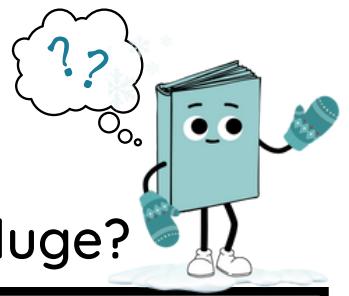
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

compete in the Olympic event of bobsled or luge?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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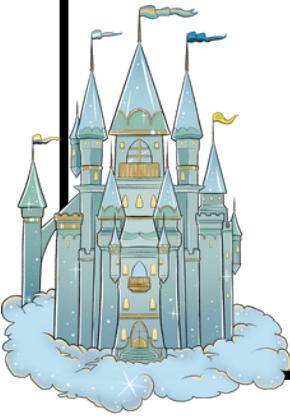
# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

sleep in an igloo or an ice castle?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



### ▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
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Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = \_\_\_/10

### Comments:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

face an abominable snowman or a polar bear?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



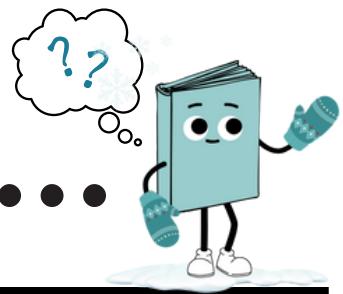
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

have frozen fingers or frozen toes?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

—

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

be an Antarctic Zoologist or an Ice Sculptor?

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = \_\_\_/10

Comments:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

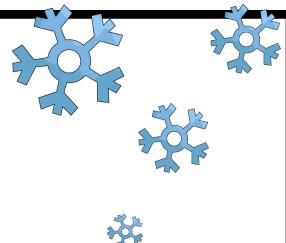
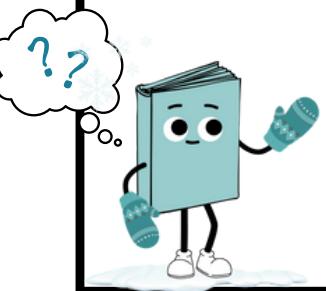
## WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...



live somewhere that was always winter or never winter?

Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
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Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			

Total Points = \_\_\_/10

Comments:

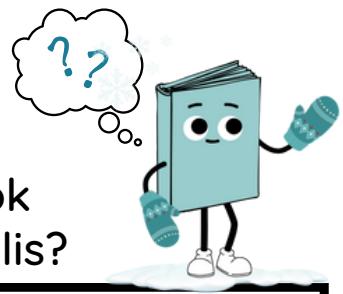
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER EDITION

# Would You Rather...

spend a winter night by the fireplace with a good book or outside under the stars watching the aurora borealis?



Use this space to brain-dump ideas, list reasons, or otherwise plan your response.



▼ Rubric

Task	0	1	2
Follows the prompt and stays on topic			
Uses correct grammar/capitalization/punctuation			
Thoughts are clearly presented and easy to follow			
Length is appropriate			
Format is correct (letter, fiction story, news article, diary entry, etc.)			
<b>Total Points:</b> 5	10		

—

# COMING SOON

Check back to my store, channel or the membership each month for more Would You Rather Brain Breaks!

## TOPIC LINE UP:

- August: Back to School
- September: Sci-Fi and Fantasy
- October: Scary Edition
- November: Sports Edition
- December: Winter Edition
- January: Gross Stuff!
- February: Fun Stuff!
- March: Body Adaptations
- April: Around the World
- May: 100 of ...
- June: Summer Edition



**EACH WOULD YOU RATHER SET  
WOULD INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE  
VIDEO AND PRINTABLE WRITING  
WORKSHEETS**

# WANT MORE??!?

## I'VE GOT YOU!

CHECK OUT THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM THE WORD NERD!

- Free week of Word Nerd Collaborative Lessons Sample
- Free First Chapter Friday Start Up Kit
- Learning with the Word Nerd YouTube Channel
- More First Chapter Friday Student Engagement Worksheets (over 200!)
- Free Brain Breaks on YouTube

Email me with questions or requests anytime!  
[WordNerd@amandazieba.com](mailto:WordNerd@amandazieba.com)



HAPPY  
TEACHING!