

Grade 12 - E6 Public Documents

A public document is a document that focuses on civic issues or matters of public policy at the community level or beyond. These documents, ranging from speeches to editorials to radio and television spots to pamphlets, do at least one of the following: take issue with a controversial public policy; suggest an alternative course of action; analyze and defend a contemporary public policy; define a public problem and suggest policy.

**E6a:** The student identifies strategies common to public documents and public discourse, including:

- E6a.1** effective use of argument;
- E6a.2** use of the power of anecdote;
- E6a.3** anticipation of counter claims;
- E6a.4** appeal to audiences both friendly and hostile to the position presented;
- E6a.5** use of emotionally laden works and imagery;
- E6a.6** citing of appropriate references or authorities.

*Examples of activities through which students might provide evidence of identifying strategies used in public documents include:*

- Evaluate a political speech.
- Evaluate and respond to an editorial or political cartoon.
- Examine campaign literature to determine underlying assumptions.
- Examine a range of articles published in a variety of media and draw inferences about the political stance of that source.
- Evaluate the visual appear and presentation of information
- Analyze two conflicting public opinions on a single topic, take a stance, and defend that point of view.

**E6b:** The student creates public documents, in

which the student:

**E6b.1** exhibits an awareness of the importance of precise word choice and the power of imagery and/or anecdote;

**E6b.2** utilizes and recognizes the power of logical arguments, arguments based on appealing to a reader’s emotions, and arguments dependent upon the writer’s persona;

**E6b.3** uses arguments that are appropriate in terms of the knowledge, values, and degree of understanding of the intended audience;

**E6b.4** uses a range of strategies to appeal to readers.

*Examples of public documents include:*

- A proposal for changing an existing social or school policy.
- A revision of an existing state policy or creation of a new policy.
- A policy statement that closely examines a significant public policy and proposes change or rationale for its retention.
- A letter to an elected official or editor taking a position on an issue or concern.
- A press release announcing a change in public policy or the creation of a new public policy.
- A web page.
- A multi-media presentation to school officials, student council, public officials, etc.