

**Public Documents Standard** (students have copy; introduce after reading first paragraph of Ch. 18))

**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 words 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:*

*Identify the main point in a political speech.*

*Evaluate an editorial.*

*Examine campaign literature to determine underlying assumptions.*

*Examine a range of articles published in a magazine or newspaper and drawing inferences about the political stance of that magazine or newspaper.*

**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 s

**E6b.2** utilizes and recognizes the power of logical arguments based on appealing to a reader's emotions;

**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.*

*An analysis of a school policy.*

*A letter to an elected official or editor taking a position on an issue or concern.*

*A multi-media presentation to school officials, student council, public officials, etc.*

## **Take a Stand!**

### **Public Document Writing Assignment**

OBSERVE the world you live in! Read the papers, listen to the news, evaluate the editorials, watch your peers. Choose an issue that requires action to achieve justice. Then decide on the appropriate forum and form to address the situation. Your goal is to encourage others to do what is right.

Role—concerned, responsible citizen

Audience—the public (student body, readers of a newspaper, etc.)

Form—you decide (see standards for public documents)

Topic—action against injustice

Scoring: Six Traits Rubric