

Student Samples: Grade 8

Argumentative Performance Task

Focus Standards

Grade 8: W.8.5; L.8.1; L.8.2

2-Point Argumentative Performance Task Writing Rubric (Grades 6–11)

SCORE	2 POINTS	1 POINTS	0 POINTS	NS
CONVENTIONS	<p>The response demonstrates an adequate command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">adequate use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling	<p>The response demonstrates a partial command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">limited use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling	<p>The response demonstrates little or no command of conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">infrequent use of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Insufficient (includes copied text)In a language other than EnglishOff-topicOff-purpose

Sample A

Do we really need pennies? If we get rid of them, it certainly wouldn't anger Jim Flaherty who says "Pennies take up too much space on our dressers at home". It turns out, pennies cost more to make than they are worth. But, some people say a penny saved is a penny earned. There are two different sides to this story . . . what do you think?

Pennys can be very helpful to people, in many diferent ways including helping businesses by slowly gaining more and more money over time. But, if we get rid of the penny and round up or down accordingly, businesses would get even more money overtime. By keeping pennies, people who can afford to throw them into fountains could put them in charity boxes that will eventually add up to help people in need.

If America banned the penny it wouldn't be the end of the world. It would hurt many organizations, and many different things. But, it would also help them, by rounding, everything would be more simple. Businesses and organizations would get more money and overall help the community.

Sample B

I think we should just we just stop producing pennies because it it was a waste of money for example in source #2 it says “estimated \$700 million in wages that businesses pay retail clerks to count pennies” that’s Cleary is a lot of money just for counting pennies!

Another reason I think the government should stop making pennies is were not making a profit when making the pennies we are losing money little by little for example in source #4 it says “just over 1.8 cents to make a penny.” This is telling you by each penny they are making they are losing about 0.8 cents and so on top of the 700 million dollars they are wasting the are also losing a total of 0.8 cents each penny they are making. A lot of people that I know don’t even use pennies they just throw them away.

I think somebody would disagree with me by saying the penny should keep being produced because at some cases you might need the penny in case something is 5.04 dollars but you only have 5.03 dollars that penny could be very useful but I could disagree with that person because even some workers at stores don’t really care if you don’t have that penny. And the government is just losing money out of making pennies that is why I think the penny should stop being made.

Sample C

The penny something we see every day. Whether we use them, donate them, or discard them into nearby fountains. They're a part of our everyday lives, and it's cost us millions. We've grown so desensitized to the sight of ownerless pennies littering our streets and sidewalks some people don't care enough to pick them up. They've lost so much value with inflation that it's a wonder the government still mints them. "Taxpayers lost \$60.2 million on the production and distribution of pennies in 2011."(source 1) This is money that could have been saved and put toward something more productive. If we can't relies the damage that we are inflicting on ourselves by letting our efforts revolve around a nearly pointless coin, then what else are we loosing.

Time, most people come to relies even at a young age how valuable it is. And even then hours and hours of it have been wasted on the production of the penny. "Those seconds add up to an estimated \$700 million per year nation wide" (source 3) That is 700 million dollars in manual labor we have lost that could have been used much wiser. We have many alternatives such as the rounding system. This system would make carrying around bills and change a much less tedious task for consumers and would save time for small businesses that don't have any to spare. Someone could argue that the penny problem doesn't apply to everyone and their for is insignificant but this debate is going on not only in the U.S., but also in other countries like Canada ,that use and are tired of the penny. "They are so useless that many Canadians don't use them at all."(source1)