

## Columbus schools auditorium should be a priority | Annotations

	Employs a Public Voice	Advocates Civic Engagement	Argues a Position Based on Reasoning & Evidence	Employs a Structure
<p><b>Title:</b> Columbus school auditorium should be a priority</p> <p><b>Form:</b> Letter to the Editor</p> <p><b>Media:</b> Text</p> <p><b>URL:</b> <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/communityresearcharguments/school-auditorium">https://sites.google.com/site/communityresearcharguments/school-auditorium</a></p>	<p><b>Score: 4</b> <b>The writing:</b></p> <p>Employs effective rhetorical strategies that reflect an understanding of the audience’s priorities and how to demonstrate that the proposed solution meets those priorities. (“<i>An auditorium is essential for the growth of both the community and the school. It will provide many school and community organizations necessary space to work, perform, and learn.</i>”). In addition, employs a straightforward, measured tone effective for persuading the community of the argued position. (“<i>Columbus Schools should make building an auditorium a priority because it would not only benefit the student body but the community as well.</i>”)</p> <p>Effectively establishes the writer’s credibility through choice of content. For example, while referencing the already-funded football stadium project strengthens the argument for the auditorium to be next in line, the bulk of the piece builds goodwill and gains trust by focusing on how the auditorium will add to the community rather than pitting the two projects against each other.</p>	<p><b>Score: 4</b> <b>The writing:</b></p> <p>Effectively establishes the public importance of building a new auditorium, by demonstrating community members believe that it will be beneficial. (“<i>Community resident who responded to our survey suggested that a new auditorium could be used by many school organizations as well as community organizations.</i>”)</p> <p>Effectively articulates how the current middle school gym can be repurposed and take advantage of existing infrastructure, thus establishing their approach as both reasonable and feasible. The writing also points out an existing funding source, “<i>Metals to Minds,</i>” and lists a range of community organizations that could take advantage of the space as well (Missoula Children’s Theater, community churches, and Stillwater mine trainings). Outlining a detailed plan is part of what sets this piece apart as a 4. (NOTE: It is not, however, necessary to propose a detailed solution to a problem to merit a 4.)</p>	<p><b>Score: 4</b> <b>The writing:</b></p> <p>Uses effective and logical reasoning to support the position that “<i>Columbus Schools should make building an auditorium a priority.</i>” In particular, it uses a cost-benefit analysis to demonstrate how a new auditorium would benefit the community, which also articulates a value structure that underlies the position (“<i>Auditoriums can serve the community in ways equal to that of a football stadium.</i>”)</p> <p>Thoughtfully interprets and synthesizes a variety of appropriate evidence (statistics, direct quotations and poll results) in service of the argued position. While the presentation of survey evidence refers to percentages of respondents without identifying the number of respondents or explaining response rates, this alone is not sufficient to lower the score to a 3. The approach of only referencing percentages of respondents is also typical of the opinion editorial genre, which sometimes hyperlink to reports of original survey results.</p> <p>Strengthens the argument by responding to concerns about the cost of the auditorium project with a cost-benefit analysis that demonstrates a in-depth understanding of current resources and limitations. (“<i>District-hired consultants have proposed that the district move the middle school to its own separate campus...With that in mind, a decent portion of the current middle/high school complex would be open to new renovation.</i>”)</p>	<p><b>Score: 4</b> <b>The writing:</b></p> <p>Presents an organization that clearly and effectively develops an argument in support of building a new Columbus auditorium. The argument begins with presenting evidence that the community as a whole as well as school employees support the idea; presents a specific, feasible plan that responds to potential cost concerns; and concludes with a discussion of the project’s benefits.</p> <p>Includes a purposeful opening and closure that establish the significance of the argument by underscoring the benefit to the entire Columbus community (“<i>It will provide many school and community organizations necessary space to work, perform, and learn.</i>”).</p> <p>Competently links paragraphs and creates cohesion by weaving a focus on community benefit and a cost benefit analysis throughout the piece.</p>

