

## Appendix 6: Student Checklists (*continued*)

### Checklist Series for *Creating Writers*

#### Checklist for Persuasive Writing

- The writing takes the reader on a journey of understanding, examining an issue or set of issues.
- The writer makes his/her position clear at the outset and sticks with that position.
- The writer's main argument is supported by evidence: facts, statistics, studies, quotations from experts, personal observations, etc.
- The writer does not rely on opinion as evidence (*This is true because most people in this country believe . . .*).
- The writer consults and cites multiple sources to build a strong case.
- The paper clearly summarizes opposing points of view and addresses them in a convincing but fair manner.
- The writer's voice is strong, confident, and compelling—but not angry, hysterical, or sarcastic.
- Usually, the writer saves his/her most compelling argument for last, giving it maximum impact.
- The writer leads the reader to a conclusion that seems all but inevitable, given the evidence—and invites the reader to accept it.
- The reader understands the issues thoroughly—even if he or she does not fully agree with the writer.

#### Simple Persuasive Checklist

- Helps reader think through issues
- Makes writer's position clear
- More than just the writer's opinion
- Gives facts, quotations, examples
- Shows why others might not agree
- Sounds strong and confident—but not angry
- Saves the best argument for last
- Helps reader make up his/her mind