

## German II, III & AP Writing Task 09-10

As Americans, when we travel outside the United States, we have come to expect that the citizens of the countries we visit will speak our language, as well as their own. For the most part, they will because their education includes English from an early age. **They** recognize the need to be bilingual - or even multi-lingual. Yet, in the U.S. studying a foreign language continues to be an option rather than a mandate.

**For this assignment here are some possible options: (You may propose another option with teacher approval.)**

- An editorial or feature article suitable for publication in the *Cardinal Spirit* to convince your peers that being bilingual is a necessity in our world today.
- A speech to the combined SCHS and Scott Co. Ninth Grade School site base councils to persuade them to support a change in graduation requirements to include at least 2 years of mandatory foreign language for all students.
- A formal, persuasive letter to Scott County School Board to **convince** them to create a bilingual culture for SC students by introducing foreign language in the elementary schools, continuing it through the middle schools and mandating 2 foreign language credits for graduation. (Remember, they need to understand why this is important in the context of our world today.)
- A formal, persuasive letter to your national Senator or Congressman asking them to support changes in the law to fund schools so they can offer foreign language K-8 and require two years of foreign language for graduation. (Again - remember that they need to understand why this is an important part of the culture if citizens are to have language literacy in our world today.)

***\*\*Your writing task must be completed in the German language\*\****

**(Remember - your opinions are only valid if you can offer convincing evidence to support them.)**

**First - analyze your target audience and their need-to-know:**

**These questions will help you choose your angle and narrow focus:**

What is going to give them a reason to even read the piece you've written or really listen to what you have to say?

How do you want them to use the information?

What kinds of information will they want to know?

**Why** do they even need the information?

What do you want them to do with the information when you finish?

**Here are some tips that will help you write an effective letter your audience will want to read:**

1. Your opening paragraph should hook your audience by engaging your reader's interest and enticing them to **want** to keep reading (or listening)  
***Make your first sentence powerful.***
2. Your opening paragraph must also provide some context for your audience, so they will understand -
  - What the current situation or problem is **and**
  - Why you, personally, are concerned(Otherwise, they may not think it's a problem, or they may not understand your concern.)
3. The last sentence of your opening paragraph must establish the purpose of the letter. **(This is your position sentence.)**
4. You will need at least 2 or 3 supporting paragraphs that contain your arguments (as the topic sentence) and at least 2 kinds of evidence or support to convince your audience.
5. Write using a respectful tone. A sarcastic or angry tone is not persuasive.
6. If you include research results, select the information you include based on audience interest and **need-to-know** (What will be the most convincing evidence?) (Sources must be cited in text).
5. Remember - your conclusion needs to circle back to your focus and it must also end with a call-to-action (i.e. What do you want your audience to **do**?)