

Psychamine Grading & Standards Rubric

10 Exceeds <-----> 4 Below			Score
Conventions	Nuts and Bolts: MLA	All MLA Elements are flawless, OR you have followed a standard letter template.	/5
Conventions	Grammar and usage	Spelling, punctuation, grammar, and usage are superb with little or no errors.	
Lit Analysis	Opening	The introduction uses a funnel that sets a reassuring tone showing your constituents that you have seriously considered this difficult situation. You state your decision in the first paragraph.	
Conventions	Paragraphs	Each paragraph has a single job to do – an idea to explore and/or refute. Paragraphs are based on the merits or dangers of Psychamine.	
Argument Writing	Other Sides	You show a deep and objective understanding of the case for the opposing view-points, one that reflects the careful and thoughtful principles that a senator who chose to vote for that side might have followed. Your exploration of that case uses “qualifying language” and then rebuts it.	
Argument Writing	Successful Defense	In taking a stance on the potential use of Psychamine, your paper shows why the points in favor of your thesis are stronger than those of the alternative point(s) of view.	
Conventions	Quoting	You support your argument with a variety of direct quotes from the testimony or the articles. Quotes are cited parenthetically by the author’s last name.	
Argument Writing	Depth	The case you make for banning, restricting, or providing Psychamine over the counter is comprehensive and deep. It also broadens out especially in the conclusion, to show how your thinking on Psychamine is part of the larger issue of the way our culture uses both illegal and legal drugs to alter emotion and behavior.	
Research & Synthesis	Non-Written research	Your argument incorporates evidence from Sol Yurick’s presentation either through paraphrase or direct quote.	
Informative Writing	Voice	Your paper uses language appropriate to the voice of a congressperson. It shows deep, careful, well-reasoned thought and understands that this decision is not necessarily overwhelmingly popular. The vocabulary isn’t necessarily sophisticated, but it avoids coarse and hurtful language.	

600 words or more= 5pts

Total Score

/100