

## Rubric

S=superior; G=good; A=average; NY= not there yet

	S	G	A	NY
<b>CONTENT - 50%</b>				
Hook	4	3	2	1
Interesting				
Grabs readers' attention				
Focused and on topic	4	3	2	1
Supporting details	4	3	2	1
Persuasive				
Words, phrases, and ideas are from text				
Message appropriate for target audience	4	3	2	1
Language				
Graphic				
Graphics	4	3	2	1
Visually represents assigned Point of View				
Large enough to see				
Neatly drawn or computer generated				
<b>MECHANICS - 20%</b>				
Spelling	4	3	2	1
Punctuation	4	3	2	1
Grammar	4	3	2	1
<b>APPEARANCE - 20%</b>				
8 1/2 X 11 unlined paper	4	3	2	1
One side only	4	3	2	1
Neatly written or word processed	4	3	2	1
Colorful	4	3	2	1
Large, legible, lettering	4	3	2	1
Wrinkle-free	4	3	2	1
White-out, erasure, and scribble free	4	3	2	1

**SELF REFLECTION - 10 %**

What aspects of your flyer would persuade the viewer to your point of view?

FCAT Reading Assessment

Would Stronger Gun Control Laws Make Schools Safer?

YES

There is no question there are many factors that contribute to violence in schools. Laws that allow easy access of guns to unqualified citizens, however, cannot be overlooked as fundamental barriers to school safety. It should be obvious that legislation decreasing kids' exposure to guns will positively affect the safety of our schools. For much too long, we have allowed ourselves to believe there is no correlation between a society with extremely accessible firearms and deadly violence.

Children without access to their parents' firearms or illegal guns will be less likely to commit violent acts with guns at school. No child should have access to semi-automatic rifles, 9-millimeter pistols or 50-round ammunition clips. Congress must enact laws to:

- bar the transfer and possession of semiautomatic assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips.
- increase penalties for selling or transferring handguns, assault weapons, and high-capacity ammunition clips to juveniles.
- hold gun owners responsible if children gain access to loaded firearms or use an adult's weapon in the commission of a crime.
- impose mandatory background checks and waiting periods on individuals purchasing any firearms.

Congress should also provide funding to train teachers, administrators, and all education support personnel to recognize the early warning signs of potential violence.

NO

Gun control laws are the equivalent of putting a bandaid on a festering wound. More gun control laws might make some people feel better. But they would do little to stop someone intent on hurting others.

The proliferation of guns today is not the problem. Guns are no more available today than they were in the 1980's, yet school shootings were not a prevalent during that decade. The issue is America kids today and their attitudes toward violence.

If youngsters have made up their minds to break the law by killing classmates, would having to obtain the guns illegally stop them? Not likely. If we make guns illegal the gun trade will become anothe lucrative market for criminals. Other weapons can l and are more readily available than guns— knives and bombs. A student with a knife could kill severa people before being disarmed. Bomb-making materials are readily available in stores, and information on making bombs is plentiful on the Internet. A student intent on killing other people will find a way to do so. The real issue is why do these children feel compelled to act violently against their teachers and fellow students?

By focusing on gun control laws, we are ignoring underlying social, emotional, and mental issues that lead to school violence. If we fail to address the insults, humiliation, and cruelty involve in the way our students treat each other, then we ar apt to see more violence, no matter what gun contrl laws may be in effect.

<b>READ</b>
<b>THINK</b>
<b>EXPLAIN</b>

Compare and contrast the two viewpoints expressed in the reading passages. Support answer with details and information from the reading passage.

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A top score response will indicate that the author of the "Yes" response addresses specific solutions that Congress can implement to help eliminate school violence, while the author of the "No" response does no solutions even though the author states what other issues need to be addressed. Both authors agree tha are a variety of factors that contribute to violence in schools.