



# Don't Choose Me!



A Persuasive Writing Project  
Told From A Pumpkin's Point of View!

Complete with all Instructions, Student  
Organizers and Scoring Rubric

All Connected to the CCSS

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## For the Teacher

This is a fun persuasive writing project that your students will really get excited about. If possible, bring in three or more pumpkins that have something undesirable about them. One might have a dented or flattened side; a second may have a broken stem; a third may just be too small or not quite ripe enough. If you do this, have your students each choose one pumpkin to “be” for the project.

Alternatively, brainstorm and chart with your students all of the possible flaws a pumpkin might have. These could include:

dent  
brown streaks  
warts  
a soft weak or broken stem  
too big  
too small  
lopsided  
squishy  
green patches

Both approaches work equally well. Whichever you choose, your students will be ready to become pumpkins and convince excited pumpkin shoppers not to harvest them from the patch.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Don't Choose Me!

It's that time of year...the air is crisp and the days are getting shorter. You have spent the summer growing, ripening and enjoying life in the pumpkin patch. You are a pumpkin, and Halloween is fast approaching. Excited shoppers are looking for the perfect pumpkin, and you must convince them not to choose you. Otherwise, you will end up as a Jack-O'Lantern on someone's front porch!

You must think quickly...while you know you are pretty special, you must find some good reasons why you are not a good choice to become a Jack-O-Lantern. What are your flaws?

Flaw #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Flaw #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Flaw #3: \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, make a drawing of yourself with your flaws.



Get Ready to Write

Now that you've identified the flaws that will help keep you in the pumpkin patch and off the harvest wagon, let's flesh out your ideas.

Write a topic sentence for flaw #1: *Example, "My skin is too bumpy."*

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Now add two or three detail sentences.

First detail: *Example, "If you tried to carve me, your hand would definitely slip."*

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Next detail: *Example, "Painting me would not work out much better. Have you ever tried to paint a straight line on a bumpy surface? Good luck!"*

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Last detail: *Example, "No matter what you do to me, I will still look like I have acne, and no one wants a pumpkin with acne!"*

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Write a concluding sentence beginning with a transitional word. There is a word bank on the next page if you need an idea. *Example: Certainly, bumpiness is not a quality anyone will want in a pumpkin for their front porch.*

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