

Name \_\_\_\_\_

The tone and style of your writing should differ depending on your purpose and your audience.

**DIRECTIONS:** The purpose of the short essay below is to convince consumers not to shop at big box stores. Read the essay. Consider the following questions:

- Is the paper's purpose clear?
- Is the organization apparent?
- Is there a clear conclusion?
- Is it free of distracting errors?

Now rewrite the essay, revising as you feel is appropriate.

### **Boycott Big Box Stores!**

Big box stores got their name because they are literally shaped like big, square boxes, and their defining characteristic is their large amount of floor space typically over 50,000 square feet. They are most often found in suburban environments and fall into one of two categories: general merchandise stores, like target and walmart that carry a large variety of goods, and specialized stores like barnes and noble or best buy that focus on a niche.

Big box stores were initially popular because by purchasing goods in huge volumes they were able to increase efficiency and reduce prices. But big box stores, which make a virtue of mass consumption, have since gotten out of control. Some have been accused of harming workers' rights, of paying unfair wages, and even of human rights violations for encouraging vendors and suppliers to use the cheapest possible form of labor in their manufacturing processes in order to keep prices low. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are many reasons why big box stores are eroding our way of life, and people ought to stop patronizing them.

For one thing, in order to construct a big box store, vast tracts of natural land need to be razed and paved over, so that big box stores play a big role in destroying our environment. They also generate extreme pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in their manufacturing processes. Big box stores also tend to draw customers from very far away which means that people are driving a long way to get to them, causing even more pollution. Furthermore, big box stores encourage rampant consumerism by their very nature. They encourage purchasing quantity over quality, and are playing a huge role in flooding the world with more "stuff" that will eventually end up in a landfill.

**ANSWERS WILL VARY**

Revisions should include a first paragraph that introduces the argument and a clear conclusion. It should be free of errors.