

Is Pluto a Planet?

Read the Writing in Science feature in your textbook.



Write About It

Persuasive Writing Recently, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) decided to drop Pluto from the list of planets in our solar system. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper arguing either for or against this decision. Include facts that back up your opinion.

Getting Ideas

Fill in the chart below. In the top box, write your opinion about the museum's decision. In the bottom boxes, write reasons that support your opinion.

Opinion		
Reason 1	Reason 2	Reason 3

Drafting

Follow these directions to create a formal letter:

1. Write or type your complete address.
2. Write or type the date.
3. Write or type the name, organization, and address of the person to whom you are writing.
4. Write or type the salutation, or greeting. Put a colon at the end of it.
5. Write or type an introductory paragraph. Explain why you are writing, and give your opinion about the problem.
6. Explain the causes and effects of the problem to support your opinion.
7. In your last paragraph, tell what you want to happen.
8. Use phrases such as “Sincerely yours” or “Yours truly” to close the letter. Put a comma after these words.
9. Sign your name. If you are using a computer, type your name a few lines below the closing, and then sign your name above that after you have printed the letter.

[1]	_____

[2]	_____
[3]	_____

[4]	_____
[5]	_____

[6]	_____

[7]	_____

[8]	_____
[9]	_____

Now write your first draft. Use a separate piece of paper. Follow the format of a formal letter.

Revising and Proofreading

Now revise and proofread your letter. Ask these questions:

- ▶ Have I clearly stated my opinion about the museum’s decision in my first paragraph?
- ▶ Have I included convincing reasons and arguments to support that opinion?
- ▶ Have I followed the format of a formal letter?
- ▶ Have I corrected all grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation errors?