

KDE Released Stand-Alone Prompts

Grade 5, Opinion

Writing situation:

Leaders in your county are considering a law that would require all dog owners to keep their dogs on their property or on leashes while out in public. The county has received many complaints in the last month about dogs running across busy streets, into neighbors' yards, and through elementary playgrounds. Some citizens have expressed fears for their safety. If this law is passed, anyone who breaks the law will have to pay a fine. County leaders are seeking public opinion as they consider this law.

Writing directions:

Decide if you think this law is a good idea. Write an email to the county leaders giving your opinion about whether this law is necessary or not. Use specific details to support your opinion.

Grade 6, Narrative

Writing situation:

A school district has a new middle school. On the first day, the students realize that they are the first people to sit in the desks, use the books in the library, walk in the halls, and set the traditions for all of the students who will attend for years and years to come. One of the teachers suggests that everyone write about his or her first day in the school. The students' narratives will be compiled in a book and placed in the library for the students who attend after them to read.

Writing directions:

Think about what it would be like to be the first to attend a newly built school. Write a narrative for the book, and tell about that first day. Describe what you do, see, and feel throughout the day.

Grade 8, Informative

Writing situation:

Animals have the same five senses as humans. However, sometimes these senses are highly developed and become valuable "super senses." (Chart is attached to prompt)

Writing directions:

Write a speech for the school's science club to explain how one animal's special sense helps it deal with its environment. Include information from the table and your own ideas in your speech.

Grade 10, Informative

Writing situation:

Your class has just finished reading "Temperance and Choices" and will be discussing which kind of person demonstrates more admirable qualities—Person A, Person B, or Person C.

Writing directions:

Write an explanation you will present to your class about which person possesses more admirable qualities. Use information from the passage in your explanation.

Grade 11, Informative

Writing situation:

The Chinese philosopher Confucius said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." Almost everyone would like to get paid for doing something that they love. However, job satisfaction is just one of many factors to consider when choosing a career path. For example, how much money do you need or want to make? Is the respect of others very important to you? How much stress are you willing to have in your life? Read the chart below to gain some insight into four different types of jobs. (chart attached to prompt)

Writing directions:

Decide which type of job is most appealing to you. Write an explanation for your school newspaper about your chosen career for the future. Support your choice logically and effectively.

KDE Released Passage-Based Prompts

Grade 5, Informative

Passages "Two American Holidays" and "Moina Micheal" precede prompt.

Writing situation:

Your class is studying American celebrations when a new student from another country joins the class. The new student speaks English but knows very little about American celebrations. To help the new student, the teacher asks the class to create a notebook with articles about celebrations in the United States. You have read the passage about the two celebrations and the article about Moina Michael. You decide you want to tell the new student about Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Writing directions:

Write an article for the new student's notebook about the two celebrations that honor past and present members of the American armed forces. Include information about why the celebrations are held. Describe the activities that some people might enjoy on these days.

Grade 6, Argumentative

Passage "Should Students Be Paid To Do Well?" precedes prompt

Writing situation:

The editors of a news magazine for young people want to know what students think about getting paid for doing well in school. They have asked people to write letters supporting or opposing paying students to do well in school. Some of the letters will be published in the next issue of the magazine.

Writing directions:

Write a letter to be published in the news magazine for young people. Present an argument as to whether or not students should be paid for doing well in school. Provide reasons and details to support your argument.

Grade 8, Argumentative

Passage "Green Invaders" precedes prompt

Writing situation:

Your science teacher has asked each student in class to help make others aware of nonnative plant species that were introduced outside of their natural range and the issues they can cause. You read the passage "Green Invaders," and you decide to use the news media to create awareness creating an argument against allowing this invasion to continue.

Writing directions:

Write an article to be published on the local news station's blog to create awareness of the issue of nonnative plants. In your blog, create your argument for the need to control the spread of invasive nonnative plants with a community action plan. Use information from the passage to support your plan.

Grade 10, Argumentative

Passage "College Entrance Exams" precedes prompt

Writing situation:

After reading "College Entrance Exams," consider your feelings on exams being used to determine college admission.

Writing directions:

Write a commentary/essay for the school newspaper arguing your position on whether colleges should rely on entrance exams to grant students admission to their programs. Support your argument.

Grade 11, Argumentative

Passages "Article 1: Should Schools Allow Cell Phone Use During the School Day?" and "Article 2: Cell Phones in School—Yes?" precede prompt

Writing situation:

There is a debate in your school district over teens and their cell phone usage. Think about where you stand on teens and cell phone use in school. Teens in your school have been invited to a council meeting composed of administrators, teachers, and parents in preparation for a policy decision.

Writing directions:

Write the speech presenting your position on cell phone use. Make your arguments on cell phone use during school. Make your arguments clear and give reasons for them. As you support your arguments, consider the counterclaims from those who think differently about cell phone usage.