



Writing Prompts for Grades 3–8

The titles below can help students plan and write creative narratives.

Fictional Narrative Prompts

1. The Day I Switched Bodies With My Friend
2. Don't Go Into the Attic
3. Accused, But Innocent
4. Our New Home on the Other Side of the Galaxy
5. You Have Just Won a Million Dollars!
6. What Happened? I Can't Speak English Anymore!
7. The Perfect Murder?
8. My Life as a Pioneer in the Old West
9. There are Two Sides to Every Coin
10. The Grass Is Always Greener on the Other Side of the Fence
11. The Haunting of Highland School
12. Her Last Breath
13. In the Year 2250
14. The Terrible Storm
15. Just a Fly on the Wall
16. My Life as a Movie Star
17. One Day of Invisibility

18. Adventures in a Foreign Land
19. Friends for Life
20. Bittersweet Victory

The essay topics below can help students think critically about relevant issues.

Essay Topic Prompts

1. Should students have more input into what is taught in school and how it is taught?
2. Do you think advertisements should be banned at school?
3. Do you think students should have to pass a test to get their high school diploma?
4. Do you think children should be allowed to choose the television shows they watch?
5. Should students be required to wear uniforms?
6. Do you believe that violence on television should be reduced or even eliminated?
7. Do you feel that women are better suited for taking care of children?
8. Should the United States start a war with another country without international support?
9. Should a person always be honest?

10. Do you think parents should be able to decide who your friends are?
11. Should male and female students be taught in separate classes?
12. Should a community service project be a requirement for high school graduation?
13. Do you think classes in subjects like music, art, and physical education are essential for a quality education?
14. Should communities be allowed to set curfews for teenagers?
15. Should students be allowed to drop out of school?
16. Do you feel that smoking should be banned in all public places?
17. Should the legal driving age be raised from 16 to 18?
18. Should parents make their children do chores?
19. The Board of Education has decided to extend the school day for one hour because the State Board of Education has increased the number of subjects students must know about. Do you agree or disagree with making the school day longer?
20. A leading doctor has published a research paper which claims that all students should be in bed by 8:00 p.m. in order for them to learn well in school. She suggests that all televisions should be off and all lights turned out by 8:00 p.m. so that students get a full night's rest. Your parents are considering doing what the doctor suggests. Convince your parents one way or the other.
21. Many students really do not like the contents of their school lunch. Parents pay for it because they feel their child will get healthy food and it is convenient for them to provide it. Yet, many students throw much of it out because they do not like the choices presented. Write an essay suggesting specific menu changes, explaining the health and financial benefits of those changes.
22. Think about where people live. People live in small towns, large towns, or even big cities. Some people live on farms or in houses in the country. Think about where it is best to live and why. Choose the one place where you would like to live and give reasons why you think it is best and why other people should want to live there.
23. Your mayor wants to build youth centers in your town. You think there should be some young people on the planning committee. Write an essay that supports your opinion.
24. Your school is thinking about stopping the practice of assigning homework on the weekend. Write an essay to persuade teachers at your school to either continue giving homework or to stop.
25. If you were to include an item in a time capsule for future generations, what would it be? The item should exemplify the culture of the late twentieth century. Convince the committee sponsoring the time capsule to include your item, explaining thoroughly the item's use and significance in the 1990s.
26. You are faced with the decision of whether or not to work while in high school. Present an argument to your parents either for or against teen employment.

27. A company has just announced that they plan to build a chemical manufacturing plant next to your home. Local officials have asked for input from nearby residents. Write an essay that convinces the officials to welcome or reject the company's plans.
28. The station that carries your favorite TV show has just decided to cancel it and replace it with re-runs of a show for very young children. As an avid viewer, write an essay to influence the station to continue showing your program.
29. You want to convince your parents to buy you a very expensive item (TV, computer, ski vacation, etc.). Write to persuade them to purchase the item for you.
30. The city council wants to pass an ordinance banning the use of bicycles in the park. Write an essay explaining why this action should or should not be taken.
31. The principal at your school has instituted random locker and backpack/book bag searches to check for guns, knives, and other weapons. Anyone caught with these weapons will be immediately suspended. The principal argues that the random searches will not only guard against illegal weapons at school, but also will help students feel safer. What is your position on this issue?
32. Your local public library has come under criticism for allowing patrons under the age of 18 to check out books considered unacceptable. The books are either explicit, describe graphic violence, or use questionable language. What is your position on this issue?
33. Some of the parents at your school have started a campaign to limit the homework that teachers can assign to students. Teachers at your school have argued that the homework is necessary. What is your position?
34. In order to save money, your principal is thinking about canceling all field trips for the remainder of the year. Write a letter to your principal persuading him or her to allow students to continue attending field trips.
35. A litter problem has developed on your school's campus. Students are throwing trash on the ground, leaving empty soda cans and bottles outside on benches, and dropping napkins and other trash on the cafeteria floor rather than carrying them to the trash can. Your principal has asked students to take more care, but the litter problem persists. The principal has reacted by canceling all after-school activities until the problem is taken care of. What is your position on this issue?
36. Write a persuasive essay stating whether children under the age of 16 should be required to wear protective helmets while biking, scooting, skateboarding, rollerblading, and skiing.