

WriteShop

10

11

Teen
Edition

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

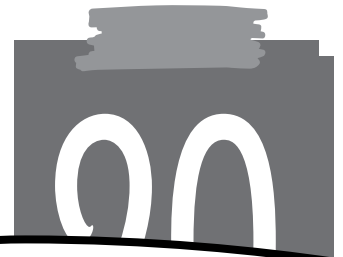
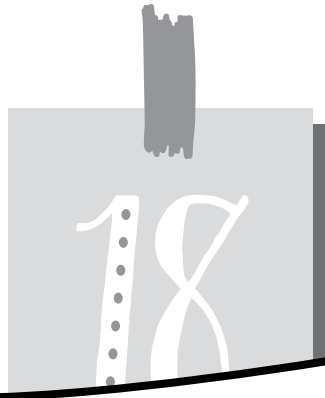
JOURNAL ALL YEAR!

A Calendar of Writing Prompts

Daily journaling topics come in three formats. You choose!

12 monthly calendars • 240 writing prompt cards • 240 writing prompt strips

by Kim Kautzer



JOURNAL ALL YEAR!

A Calendar of Writing Prompts

Name _____

Copyright © 2018 by Kim Kautzer All rights reserved.

Published by WriteShop® Inc.

2726 S. Mildred Place, Ontario, CA 91761

writeshop.com

COPYING POLICY

Calendars and prompts may be reproduced freely for single-family or single-classroom use only. They are not intended to be copied for an entire school. Materials may not be distributed or shared with others without prior written consent from the publisher. Schools must purchase a license that permits duplication for multiple classrooms.

E-mail: info@writeshop.com

Phone: (909) 989-5576

No part of this work may be published, reproduced, duplicated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted or copied in any form or by any means now known or hereafter developed, whether electronic, mechanical, or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law, or unless it complies with the Copying Policy above.

Illegal use, copying, publication, transfer, distribution, or resale, is considered copyright infringement according to Sections 107 and 108 and other relevant portions of the United States Copyright Act.

Journal All Year! A Calendar of Writing Prompts (Teen Edition)

Layout and Design: Becky Thomson

Introduction & Instructions

Journal All Year!

By writing every day, not only do students become more fluent writers, they grow increasingly comfortable writing for longer stretches of time. One of the best ways to make sure you stick with a daily writing habit is to have plenty of engaging topics on hand. Your teens will thrive when given boundaries with generous margins. Journal prompts provide the perfect launching point, especially for kids who complain, “I never know what to write about!”

This set of 240 prompts will carry you through an entire calendar year. It includes a wide variety of essay topics to inspire your **middle school** or **high school student**. Calendars may be printed in your choice of three formats, each containing the same prompts:

- 12 undated monthly **calendars** for January through December, each divided into 4 weeks
- 240 writing prompt **cards**
- 240 writing prompt **strips**

Overview

Because the same prompts are formatted as calendars, cards, and strips, you can **mix up the presentation** or storage of the prompts. For example, affix the *calendar* to your fridge, make a prompt jar with the folded *strips*, or place the prompt *cards* on a ring. You can even do a little bit of all three—the choice is yours!

Add the prompts to your writing center, use them for daily warm-ups and journaling, or assign them as a supplement to your writing lessons. Here are some example essay prompts from the collection:

persuasive — *Write a paragraph or two in which you persuade a friend to break a habit that is harmful to their physical, emotional, or financial health. Back up your argument with logic, examples, and facts.*

creative — *Our lives can be compared to pieces of clay, which are slowly molded and shaped into finished works of art. Write about the feelings of a potter or sculptor as—slowly but surely—his clay becomes something useful and beautiful.*

argumentative — *Where do you stand on the issue of consuming animals? Using examples, write an essay explaining why you choose to eat—or not eat—meat.*

expository — *You have invited your best friend to join your family on a camping trip. Are you going to the beach or the mountains? Will you camp in a tent or a motorhome? Write a paragraph or two explaining how to pack for this trip.*

reflective — *Write about your first name: Does it suit you? What is its significance? Do you like it?*

The calendars are not dated, so you can **use them year after year** whenever you need writing inspiration for your tweens and teens. Start at any month in the year; printing out only the pages you need.

Prepare the Prompts

Print

This set contains three formats: *calendars*, *cards*, and *strips*. Choose the format you want to try first. If you start with calendars, for example, you can always print cards or strips later. To make it easier for you, all prompts appear in order by month. The January calendar appears first. It is followed by January cards, which are followed by January strips. Next, you'll find the February calendar, cards, and strips, and so on.

Tip

When setting up your printer options, choose **"Fit"** or **"Fit to Page"** to ensure that the calendars, cards, or strips don't get cut off at the edges.

Option 1: Print on Computer Paper

Plain computer paper—either white or colored—is ideal for calendars and strips. It is also a good option for *cards you plan to laminate*.

For easy identification, try printing an entire month's prompts on a **single color** of paper. January's calendar, cards, and/or strips might be printed on light blue, for instance, while February's prompts might be printed on red.

Option 2: Print on Cardstock

When laminating is not an option, use cardstock to print CARDS. It will give you sturdier cards that are easier to store.

Cut

After printing cards or strips, cut them out along the dotted lines. A paper cutter will make short work of this task.

Laminate

There is no need to laminate calendars or strips. However, you may want to laminate the *cards* to make them more durable, especially if you plan to store them on rings. This is completely optional, of course.

Store

No matter how you display the calendars or store your cards or strips, make them accessible, along with journals or lined paper and a variety of writing implements.

CALENDARS

- Hang the calendars on your refrigerator or bulletin board for daily reference. Optionally, number the monthly grid with your active school dates each month.
- Punch holes in the calendars and insert them in a 3-ring writing notebook. Optionally, provide 12 tabbed dividers, labeled with months of the year.
- Tape or glue the calendar pages into a spiral composition notebook or other journal.

CARDS

- Because there are so many cards, consider printing and storing one month's worth at a time.
- Store cards in a small tin or file box.
- Laminate the cards, punch a hole in the top left corner, and store them on a ring. Since there are 240 cards, you might want to use one ring for each month.

STRIPS

- Because there are so many strips, consider printing and storing one month's worth at a time.
- Fold strips and keep them in a jar, basket, or bucket. There is no special order, so it's fine if they get mixed up!

MAKE A JOURNALING NOTEBOOK

Whether you use calendars, cards, strips, or a combination, help your teens keep all their daily journaling in one place!

- Use a slim binder with a see-through cover.
- Fill it with blank lined paper.
- Print a copy of either the colored or black-and-white cover to insert in the front of the binder. (The black-and-white cover has a blank line for their name.)

Key to the Five Prompt Types

Because each week features **five different categories of prompts**, your tween or teen won't be stuck in a rut of *only* expository or *only* persuasive topics. Topics provide the perfect amount of structure to stimulate your student while allowing for factual, creative, or reflective writing.

1. Persuasive

The PERSUASIVE essay attempts to sway the reader to accept the writer's position. Keywords include: *persuade, convince, sway, argue, convert*

2. Creative

The CREATIVE essay tells a story or describes a situation, person, or location. Keywords include: *imagine, story, tell, describe, detail*

3. Argumentative

The ARGUMENTATIVE essay is developed from a thesis in which the student takes a stance/gives an opinion. Keywords include: *justify, prove, take a stance, agree or disagree, argue for or against, should you or should you not, why or why not*

4. Expository

An EXPOSITORY essay explains a premise. Keywords include: *define, describe, demonstrate, tell how, illustrate, explain, outline the steps needed, compare or contrast, distinguish between, show cause and effect, give examples*

5. Reflective

The REFLECTIVE Essay encourages students to analyze and write about their life, personality, and/or experiences. Reflective essays are much less academic in nature. Keywords include: *your, you, personal, what was your experience, what did you learn, how did you feel, describe a time when you...*

Many of these topics are meaty enough for advanced high school students to develop into academic essays. Other prompts, designed for entertainment or reflection, can still make effective daily writing warm-ups.

How to Use the Prompts

There is no single way to use the calendars, cards, and strips. They are flexible, so you can tailor them to your needs. Here are a few options.

Prompts as Freewriting Activities

Journal writing is a non-threatening way to explore different thoughts, topics, and ideas without worrying about proofreading or writing final drafts. This form of journaling is sometimes called **freewriting**.

Daily journal writing can be intimidating. That's why freewriting is such a wonderful way to let teens practice writing without fear of judgment, criticism, or correction. Since this type of daily journaling doesn't get edited or revised, they will be comforted to know that if they "mess up," it won't count against them.

The page may be filled with errors—but that's okay. Resist the temptation to correct it. If you find mistakes, chances are you'll see those same mistakes during formal writing lessons, when you can proofread for word choice, sentence structure, and mechanics.

When launching into freewriting, why not try these tips to encourage self-expression and promote stress-free, enthusiastic responses?

- **Encourage your teens to find a journaling space.** Let them choose an inviting spot where they feel more inspired to write.
- **Give free choice.** When students have a say in the topic, they will often write with more enthusiasm. It's okay if they choose prompts out of order. Let them skip around on the calendar or cherry-pick through their file of prompt cards to find a topic that really inspires. When using strips, suggest they draw 2-3 prompt strips, choose their favorite for the day, and put the others back in the jar.
- **Tell them not to worry about spelling and grammar.** There is no such thing as right or wrong when freewriting, because perfectionism will stifle creativity.
- **Let them make their journal their own.** Journal writing is often more fun when students can let their creative side go a little wild! Adding photos, doodles, or artwork gives their journal a unique personality.
- **Go for low-pressure freewriting.** Allow them to discover their own best way to journal.
- **Play soft classical music in the background.** Music can set a tone for a more fruitful writing session.
- **Give positive feedback.** Comment on increased writing stamina, good attitudes, improved content, or specific things you learned through their journaling responses. Thank them for completing the task. Let them know you appreciate and enjoy their writing, but *don't point out mistakes or offer suggestions*.

Prompts as Extended Writing Assignments

Most of the time, freewriting sessions will prevail when students respond to the daily prompts. But occasionally, you might want to assign a topic as an **extended writing assignment** that will evolve into a polished final draft.

Extended writing gives the parent or teacher more control over the topic. As a rule, topics that require **explanation, persuasion, or a line of reasoning (argument)** lend themselves best to extended writing assignments.

Planning Tools

Provide a graphic organizer to help students plan before they write. Use (or reuse) one of their WriteShop graphic organizers. Alternatively, you can find many free printables online, such as:

- [Venn Diagram \(to Compare and Contrast\)](#)
- [Persuasive \(or Argumentative\) Writing Plan](#)
- [Persuasive \(or Argumentative\) Essay Plan](#)
- [Five-Paragraph Essay Organizer](#)
- [Flow Chart \(for Sequencing Steps or Events\)](#)

Pre-writing Discussions

You'll notice that the daily WriteShop prompts are concise. Even though the calendars, cards, and strips didn't leave room to ask the probing questions that help students consider different facets of a topic, you can do that with them as part of an oral pre-writing activity. When you want teens to develop a particular topic into a composition or essay, pre-writing discussions will help them get those creative juices flowing and give them more to write about.

To challenge more proficient writers, add **conditions** such as certain words to use, additional ideas to include, or a set number of sentences or paragraphs to write.

Example writing prompt: *Do you have a special collection? Tell the benefits of having a collection, and explain how someone can begin to grow a collection of his or her own.*

Add conditions:

- Write three to five paragraphs.
- Briefly describe your own collection, including how you got started.
- List three benefits of having a collection.
- Tell three to five steps someone can take toward starting their own collection.
- Use vivid description, concrete nouns, and strong verbs.
- Find synonyms for frequently repeated words.

Talk with your teen about different ways to fulfill these conditions. To help with the pre-writing stage, provide a graphic organizer, if possible.

Tip

Teens will write with greater willingness when the final topic choice is theirs. However, extended writing is not the time to allow absolute freedom. Instead, offer 2-3 prompts from one category (e.g., argumentative) and ask your student to pick his or her favorite.

JANUARY WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Write a paragraph or two in which you persuade a friend to break a habit that is harmful to their physical, emotional, or financial health. Back up your argument with logic, examples, and facts.

CREATIVE Imagine you've washed up on a South Seas island. Are you happy to remain here, or do you want to be rescued? You decide to send five different messages in a bottle, either asking for help or explaining your decision to stay. What will you write in each message?

ARGUMENTATIVE Do you think receiving an allowance promotes financial responsibility, or does it contribute to a sense of entitlement? Should an allowance be given with no strings attached, or should it be earned through chores or good grades? Explain your reasons why parents should or should not give an allowance to their teens.

EXPOSITORY Think about some of the ways you like to spend your free time. Choose one, and write an essay describing this activity.

REFLECTIVE Write about your first name: Does it suit you? What is its significance? Do you like it?

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Your local Chamber of Commerce has asked you to create a brochure to attract visitors to your hometown. Write an essay convincing others to visit. Include details about three different attractions, historical locations, or special events.

CREATIVE Write a poem or story using the following words: *red, swing, squeak, envelope, gust, photo, exhilarating*.

ARGUMENTATIVE Many people believe violent video games negatively impact society because they promote violence. Do you agree or disagree? Support your response with examples and logic.

EXPOSITORY Your parents have decided it's time for you to get a part-time job. Write an essay explaining the steps you need to follow in order to apply for a job.

REFLECTIVE Have you lived or traveled overseas? Held an interesting or unusual job? Participated in a sport that challenged you physically and mentally? Think about an unusual experience or incident from your life. Write a reflective essay explaining how that experience has influenced you and caused you to grow as a person.

JANUARY WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE What is one of your favorite films? Write an essay in which you persuade someone to watch this movie.

CREATIVE You get a summer job working for your neighbor, but after three days he fires you! Is it because of something you did? Are you embarrassed or relieved? What will you tell your parents? Write a short story telling what happened.

ARGUMENTATIVE Would you want to become the president or prime minister of your country? Why or why not? Write an essay developing three reasons for your choice.

EXPOSITORY Discuss the pros and cons of living in the city versus living in the rural countryside.

REFLECTIVE The Roman poet Horace first wrote the words *carpe diem*, a familiar Latin phrase that means *seize the day*. Write what these words mean to you. What is your plan to make the most of each day?

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE Think of five unforgettable, inspirational, or life-changing books that have impacted you. Which one do you think should be required reading for everyone? Write an essay in which you persuade others to read this book. Support your position with three main points.

CREATIVE In detail, describe a vehicle, piece of furniture, or musical instrument you can create from three or more of following discarded or broken items: *old bicycle, soda bottles, aluminum cans, rope, CDs, blue jeans, dresser drawers, broom handles, wooden crates, car tires, PVC pipe, shoeboxes, clock, batteries, wire, marbles.*

ARGUMENTATIVE How much time do you spend enjoying nature and the great outdoors? Do you agree that today's kids are nature-deprived? Include reasons and examples to support your opinion.

EXPOSITORY Think of the most unusual person you have known: their personality, their external qualities, and their unique point of view (background and special knowledge). Try to capture this amazing person on paper.

REFLECTIVE Are you a risk taker, or do you usually play it safe? Write about a time when you decided to take a chance.

PERSUASIVE

Write a paragraph or two in which you persuade a friend to break a habit that is harmful to their physical, emotional, or financial health. Back up your argument with logic, examples, and facts.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine you've washed up on a South Seas island. Are you happy to remain here, or do you want to be rescued? You decide to send five different messages in a bottle, either asking for help or explaining your decision to stay. What will you write in each message?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Do you think receiving an allowance promotes financial responsibility, or does it contribute to a sense of entitlement? Should an allowance be given with no strings attached, or should it be earned through chores or good grades? Explain your reasons why parents should or should not give an allowance to their teens.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Think about some of the ways you like to spend your free time. Choose one, and write an essay describing this activity.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write about your first name: Does it suit you? What is its significance? Do you like it?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Your local Chamber of Commerce has asked you to create a brochure to attract visitors to your hometown. Write an essay convincing others to visit. Include details about three different attractions, historical locations, or special events.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Write a poem or story using the following words: *red, swing, squeak, envelope, gust, photo, exhilarating.*

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Many people believe violent video games negatively impact society because they promote violence. Do you agree or disagree? Support your response with examples and logic.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Your parents have decided it's time for you to get a part-time job. Write an essay explaining the steps you need to follow in order to apply for a job.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Have you lived or traveled overseas? Held an interesting or unusual job? Participated in a sport that challenged you physically and mentally? Think about an unusual experience or incident from your life. Write a reflective essay explaining how that experience has influenced you and caused you to grow as a person.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

What is one of your favorite films? Write an essay in which you persuade someone to watch this movie.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

You get a summer job working for your neighbor, but after three days he fires you! Is it because of something you did? Are you embarrassed or relieved? What will you tell your parents? Write a short story telling what happened.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Would you want to become the president or prime minister of your country? Why or why not? Write an essay developing three reasons for your choice.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Discuss the pros and cons of living in the city versus living in the rural countryside.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

The Roman poet Horace first wrote the words *carpe diem*, a familiar Latin phrase that means *seize the day*. Write what these words mean to you. What is your plan to make the most of each day?

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Think of five unforgettable, inspirational, or life-changing books that have impacted you. Which one do you think should be required reading for everyone? Write an essay in which you persuade others to read this book. Support your position with three main points.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

In detail, describe a vehicle, piece of furniture, or musical instrument you can create from three or more of the following discarded or broken items: *old bicycle, soda bottles, aluminum cans, rope, CDs, blue jeans, dresser drawers, broom handles, wooden crates, car tires, PVC pipe, shoeboxes, clock, batteries, wire, marbles.*

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

How much time do you spend enjoying nature and the great outdoors?

Do you agree that today's kids are nature-deprived? Include reasons and examples to support your opinion.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Think of the most unusual person you have known: their personality, their external qualities, and their unique point of view (background and special knowledge). Try to capture this amazing person on paper.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Are you a risk taker, or do you usually play it safe? Write about a time when you decided to take a chance.

January

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Write a paragraph or two in which you persuade a friend to break a habit that is harmful to their physical, emotional, or financial health. Back up your argument with logic, examples, and facts.



CREATIVE: Imagine you’ve washed up on a South Seas island. Are you happy to remain here, or do you want to be rescued? You decide to send five different messages in a bottle, either asking for help or explaining your decision to stay. What will you write in each message?



ARGUMENTATIVE: Do you think receiving an allowance promotes financial responsibility, or does it contribute to a sense of entitlement? Should an allowance be given with no strings attached, or should it be earned through chores or good grades? Explain your reasons why parents should or should not give an allowance to their teens.



EXPOSITORY: Think about some of the ways you like to spend your free time. Choose one, and write an essay describing this activity.



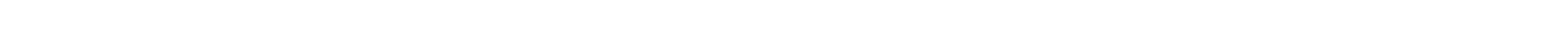
REFLECTIVE: Write about your first name: Does it suit you? What is its significance? Do you like it?



PERSUASIVE: Your local Chamber of Commerce has asked you to create a brochure to attract visitors to your hometown. Write an essay convincing others to visit. Include details about three different attractions, historical locations, or special events.



CREATIVE: Write a poem or story using the following words: *red, swing, squeak, envelope, gust, photo, exhilarating.*





ARGUMENTATIVE: Many people believe violent video games negatively impact society because they promote violence. Do you agree or disagree? Support your response with examples and logic.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Your parents have decided it's time for you to get a part-time job. Write an essay explaining the steps you need to follow in order to apply for a job.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Have you lived or traveled overseas? Held an interesting or unusual job? Participated in a sport that challenged you physically and mentally? Think about an unusual experience or incident from your life. Write a reflective essay explaining how that experience has influenced you and caused you to grow as a person.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: What is one of your favorite films? Write an essay in which you persuade someone to: watch this movie.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: You get a summer job working for your neighbor, but after three days he fires you! Is it because of something you did? Are you embarrassed or relieved? What will you tell your parents? Write a short story telling what happened.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Would you want to become the president or prime minister of your country? Why or why not? Write an essay developing three reasons for your choice.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Discuss the pros and cons of living in the city versus living in the rural countryside.

WriteShop® JANUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: The Roman poet Horace first wrote the words *carpe diem*, a familiar Latin phrase that means *seize the day*. Write what these words mean to you. What is your plan to make the most of each day?



PERSUASIVE: Think of five unforgettable, inspirational, or life-changing books that have impacted you. Which one do you think should be required reading for everyone? Write an essay in which you persuade others to read this book. Support your position with three main points.



CREATIVE: In detail, describe a vehicle, piece of furniture, or musical instrument you can create from three or more of the following discarded or broken items: *old bicycle, soda bottles, aluminum cans, rope, CDs, blue jeans, dresser drawers, broom handles, wooden crates, car tires, PVC pipe, shoeboxes, clock, batteries, wire, marbles.*



ARGUMENTATIVE: How much time do you spend enjoying nature and the great outdoors? Do you agree that today's kids are nature-deprived? Include reasons and examples to support your opinion.



EXPOSITORY: Think of the most unusual person you have known: their personality, their external qualities, and their unique point of view (background and special knowledge). Try to capture this amazing person on paper.



REFLECTIVE: Are you a risk taker, or do you usually play it safe? Write about a time when you decided to take a chance.



FEBRUARY WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Many students volunteer their time to help others, either through nonprofit organizations, animal shelters, churches, or other charitable venues. Write an essay to persuade other teens to find a charity and become a volunteer.

CREATIVE Have you ever seen an old pair of shoes hanging way up high on a telephone wire or electrical line? Write a story about how one such pair of shoes ended up there.

ARGUMENTATIVE Do you think smaller families are better than larger ones? Why or why not? Support your position with specific reasons and examples.

EXPOSITORY You have invited your best friend to join your family on a camping trip. Are you going to the beach or the mountains? Will you camp in a tent or a motorhome? Write a paragraph or two explaining how to pack for this trip.

REFLECTIVE Are you usually an optimist or a pessimist? Explain your answer using several examples from your life.

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Usually abbreviated A.M., the Latin phrase *ante meridiem* means *before noon*. Teens have a biological need for more sleep—and especially for sleeping late in the morning. Persuade your parents that your homeschool day should begin later in the day, giving valid reasons to support your position.

CREATIVE Describe a winding mountain road from a car's point of view.

ARGUMENTATIVE Some people claim humans should eat more insects. After all, many insects are a good source of protein and vitamins. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?

EXPOSITORY By the time you reach high school, you have already experienced some of life's ups and downs. You've seized some great opportunities and turned your back on others. Though you've made good choices, you have also made poor ones. You've both rejected and heeded good advice. Looking back, surely there are things you wish you had done differently. Write an essay sharing your most important piece of advice with a younger sibling or friend.

REFLECTIVE In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the character of Atticus Finch says, "You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Write about a personal experience that helped you better understand another person.

FEBRUARY WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE Imagine that you have invented an exciting new item of wearable technology. Write a persuasive essay in which you describe this item, explain what it does, and convince readers to buy it.

CREATIVE If someone asked you to photograph spiders, insects, and bugs, where would you take your camera? Use your senses to describe this location and the tiny creatures you see through your lens.

ARGUMENTATIVE Nothing can ruin a vacation as quickly as a speeding ticket on a wide-open highway. Do you think speed limits are a good idea, or do they hurt more people than they help? Explain your opinion with facts and examples.

EXPOSITORY If you could be laid to rest anywhere, where would it be? Explain your reasons in a brief essay.

REFLECTIVE Write about a time when you got lost, making sure to describe your feelings during that experience.

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE Who says a night in the doghouse is cold and lonely? Imagine you've come up with plans for a luxury dog house for your pet. Write a persuasive paragraph to convince your parents Fido deserves this posh, two-story pad.

CREATIVE Would you rather spend an evening stoking bonfires by the beach or throwing snowballs at your best friend? Describe your favorite season, including the activities that make it so appealing to you.

ARGUMENTATIVE Everywhere you look, false advertising is rampant. Misleading words and images sell political candidates, beauty products, convenience foods, tobacco, and alcohol. Do you think the government should regulate advertising media? Or, does false advertising simply come down to freedom of speech? Use logic and examples to explain your position.

EXPOSITORY You read a help-wanted ad for a job that is perfect for you. Write a letter to the hiring manager explaining why you are the best candidate for the position.

REFLECTIVE Write about three goals you have. How are you working toward achieving one or more of those goals?

PERSUASIVE

Many students volunteer their time to help others, either through nonprofit organizations, animal shelters, churches, or other charitable venues. Write an essay to persuade other teens to find a charity and become a volunteer.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Have you ever seen an old pair of shoes hanging way up high on a telephone wire or electrical line? Write a story about how one such pair of shoes ended up there.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Do you think smaller families are better than larger ones? Why or why not? Support your position with specific reasons and examples.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

You have invited your best friend to join your family on a camping trip. Are you going to the beach or the mountains? Will you camp in a tent or a motorhome? Write a paragraph or two explaining how to pack for this trip.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Are you usually an optimist or a pessimist? Explain your answer using several examples from your life.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Usually abbreviated A.M., the Latin phrase *ante meridiem* means before noon. Teens have a biological need for more sleep—and especially for sleeping late in the morning. Persuade your parents that your homeschool day should begin later in the day, giving valid reasons to support your position.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Describe a winding mountain road from a car's point of view.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Some people claim humans should eat more insects. After all, many insects are a good source of protein and vitamins. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

By the time you reach high school, you have already experienced some of life's ups and downs. You've seized some great opportunities and turned your back on others. Though you've made good choices, you have also made poor ones. You've both rejected and heeded good advice. Looking back, surely there are things you wish you had done differently. Write an essay sharing your most important piece of advice with a younger sibling or friend.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the character of Atticus Finch says, "You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Write about a personal experience that helped you better understand another person.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Imagine that you have invented an exciting new item of wearable technology. Write a persuasive essay in which you describe this item, explain what it does, and convince readers to buy it.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

If someone asked you to photograph spiders, insects, and bugs, where would you take your camera? Use your senses to describe this location and the tiny creatures you see through your lens.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Nothing can ruin a vacation as quickly as a speeding ticket on a wide-open highway. Do you think speed limits are a good idea, or do they hurt more people than they help? Explain your opinion with facts and examples.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

If you could be laid to rest anywhere, where would it be? Explain your reasons in a brief essay.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write about a time when you got lost, making sure to describe your feelings during that experience.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Who says a night in the doghouse is cold and lonely? Imagine you've come up with plans for a luxury dog house for your pet. Write a persuasive paragraph to convince your parents Fido deserves this posh, two-story pad.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Would you rather spend an evening stoking bonfires by the beach or throwing snowballs at your best friend? Describe your favorite season, including the activities that make it so appealing to you.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Everywhere you look, false advertising is rampant. Misleading words and images sell political candidates, beauty products, convenience foods, tobacco, and alcohol. Do you think the government should regulate advertising media? Or, does false advertising simply come down to freedom of speech? Use logic and examples to explain your position.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

You read a help-wanted ad for a job that is perfect for you. Write a letter to the hiring manager explaining why you are the best candidate for the position.

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write about three goals you have. How are you working toward achieving one or more of those goals?

February

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Many students volunteer their time to help others, either through nonprofit organizations, animal shelters, churches, or other charitable venues. Write an essay to persuade other teens to find a charity and become a volunteer.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Have you ever seen an old pair of shoes hanging way up high on a telephone wire or electrical line? Write a story about how one such pair of shoes ended up there.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Do you think smaller families are better than larger ones? Why or why not? Support your position with specific reasons and examples.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: You have invited your best friend to join your family on a camping trip. Are you going to the beach or the mountains? Will you camp in a tent or a motorhome? Write a paragraph or two explaining how to pack for this trip.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Are you usually an optimist or a pessimist? Explain your answer using several examples from your life.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Usually abbreviated A.M., the Latin phrase *ante meridiem* means before noon. Teens have a biological need for more sleep—and especially for sleeping late in the morning. Persuade your parents that your homeschool day should begin later in the day, giving valid reasons to support your position.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Describe a winding mountain road from a car's point of view.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: Some people claim humans should eat more insects. After all, many insects are a good source of protein and vitamins. Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: By the time you reach high school, you have already experienced some of life's ups and downs. You've seized some great opportunities and turned your back on others. Though you've made good choices, you have also made poor ones. You've both rejected and heeded good advice. Looking back, surely there are things you wish you had done differently. Write an essay sharing your most important piece of advice with a younger sibling or friend.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the character of Atticus Finch says, "You never really know a man until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Write about a personal experience that helped you better understand another person.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Imagine that you have invented an exciting new item of wearable technology. Write a persuasive essay in which you describe this item, explain what it does, and convince readers to buy it.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: If someone asked you to photograph spiders, insects, and bugs, where would you take your camera? Use your senses to describe this location and the tiny creatures you see through your lens.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



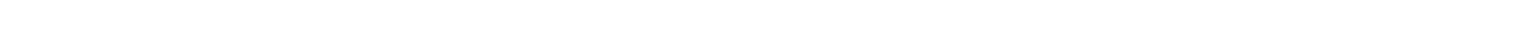
ARGUMENTATIVE: Nothing can ruin a vacation as quickly as a speeding ticket on a wide-open highway. Do you think speed limits are a good idea, or do they hurt more people than they help? Explain your opinion with facts and examples.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: If you could be laid to rest anywhere, where would it be? Explain your reasons in a brief essay.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: Write about a time when you got lost, making sure to describe your feelings during that experience.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Who says a night in the doghouse is cold and lonely? Imagine you've come up with plans for a luxury dog house for your pet. Write a persuasive paragraph to convince your parents Fido deserves this posh, two-story pad.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Would you rather spend an evening stoking bonfires by the beach or throwing snowballs at your best friend? Describe your favorite season, including the activities that make it so appealing to you.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Everywhere you look, false advertising is rampant. Misleading words and images sell political candidates, beauty products, convenience foods, tobacco, and alcohol. Do you think the government should regulate advertising media? Or, does false advertising simply come down to freedom of speech? Use logic and examples to explain your position.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: You read a help-wanted ad for a job that is perfect for you. Write a letter to the hiring manager explaining why you are the best candidate for the position.

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Write about three goals you have. How are you working toward achieving one or more of those goals?

WriteShop® FEBRUARY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



MARCH WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE You are a famous astronaut who has journeyed to the moon, Mars, and beyond. From your point of view, write a persuasive essay explaining why your country should invest more time, money, and effort to explore the reaches of outer space. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.

CREATIVE A new planet has been discovered. Give the planet a name, describe its topographical features and climate, and tell what, if anything, inhabits this world.

ARGUMENTATIVE Do you have a phone? Do you think most teens need a phone? Why or why not? Explain your answer using sound reasoning.

EXPOSITORY A devastating tornado has leveled much of a nearby small town. Write an essay explaining what you would do to help these families recover from their loss.

REFLECTIVE Write a paragraph describing what you like most about yourself.

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Do you know a grandparent or elderly neighbor who still doesn't use modern technology? Write a letter convincing them to get a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Considering their interests, give them at least three reasons or benefits for owning and using such a device.

CREATIVE Describe a picnic from the point of view of an ant, a squirrel, or a bird. Use vivid, sensory details.

ARGUMENTATIVE *E pluribus unum*, the motto of United States of America, means *from many, one*. Which do you think is the more important: the rights of the *individual* or the rights of the *community*? Use examples to support your view.

EXPOSITORY Write an essay explaining how someone should choose a pet that matches their lifestyle.

REFLECTIVE Write about a time you helped someone who was in need.

MARCH WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE Research shows the average American teen spends up to 40 hours in front of television and computer screens each week. Do you think this is too much? Write an essay convincing teens to spend less time in front of the screen. Use examples to support your view, and suggest alternatives.

CREATIVE Will robots of the future have human qualities? Will they have a sense of touch? Will they be able to experience feelings and emotions? If you could design a robot, describe the human qualities it would have.

ARGUMENTATIVE What is the most important key to success? How much do staying in school, learning a foreign language, and earning a college degree factor into your idea of success? Support your opinion with logic and examples.

EXPOSITORY Imagine you have landed on the cover of a magazine. Write a paragraph telling which magazine it is and why you received this recognition.

REFLECTIVE Some of our richest or most meaningful experiences take place when we travel. Write a paragraph or two about a memorable experience you had when you were traveling. To draw your reader in, include emotional words along with sensory descriptions of sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell.

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE Genetic testing can reveal markers that indicate the carrier is more likely to contract various diseases. Make a case for or against this kind of genetic testing for the general public.

CREATIVE You are a friendly Chihuahua who just met the poodle that lives next door. The two of you quickly discover how much you have in common, including a history of embarrassing dog outfits. Describe the fairy costume your family made you wear recently.

ARGUMENTATIVE Should elderly drivers be required to reapply for their driving licenses every year? Write an essay that supports your opinion with facts, examples, and common sense.

EXPOSITORY Describe an experience in which nature challenged, refreshed, humbled, or energized you.

REFLECTIVE What “little thing” can you do to make this world a better place? Write about it.

PERSUASIVE

You are a famous astronaut who has journeyed to the moon, Mars, and beyond. From your point of view, write a persuasive essay explaining why your country should invest more time, money, and effort to explore the reaches of outer space. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

A new planet has been discovered. Give the planet a name, describe its topographical features and climate, and tell what, if anything, inhabits this world.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Do you have a phone? Do you think most teens need a phone? Why or why not? Explain your answer using sound reasoning.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

A devastating tornado has leveled much of a nearby small town. Write an essay explaining what you would do to help these families recover from their loss.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write a paragraph describing what you like most about yourself.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Do you know a grandparent or elderly neighbor who still doesn't use modern technology? Write a letter convincing them to get a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Considering their interests, give them at least three reasons or benefits for owning and using such a device.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Describe a picnic from the point of view of an ant, a squirrel, or a bird. Use vivid, sensory details.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

E pluribus unum, the motto of United States of America, means from many, one. Which do you think is the more important: the rights of the individual or the rights of the community? Use examples to support your view.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Write an essay explaining how someone should choose a pet that matches their lifestyle.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write about a time you helped someone who was in need.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Research shows the average American teen spends up to 40 hours in front of television and computer screens each week. Do you think this is too much? Write an essay convincing teens to spend less time in front of the screen. Use examples to support your view, and suggest alternatives.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Will robots of the future have human qualities? Will they have a sense of touch? Will they be able to experience feelings and emotions? If you could design a robot, describe the human qualities it would have.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

What is the most important key to success? How much do staying in school, learning a foreign language, and earning a college degree factor into your idea of success? Support your opinion with logic and examples.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Imagine you have landed on the cover of a magazine. Write a paragraph telling which magazine it is and why you received this recognition.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Some of our richest or most meaningful experiences take place when we travel. Write a paragraph or two about a memorable experience you had when you were traveling. To draw your reader in, include emotional words along with sensory descriptions of sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Genetic testing can reveal markers that indicate the carrier is more likely to contract various diseases. Make a case for or against this kind of genetic testing for the general public.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

You are a friendly Chihuahua who just met the poodle that lives next door. The two of you quickly discover how much you have in common, including a history of embarrassing dog outfits. Describe the fairy costume your family made you wear recently.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Should elderly drivers be required to reapply for their driving licenses every year? Write an essay that supports your opinion with facts, examples, and common sense.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Describe an experience in which nature challenged, refreshed, humbled, or energized you.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

What “little thing” can you do to make this world a better place? Write about it.

March

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: You are a famous astronaut who has journeyed to the moon, Mars, and beyond. From your point of view, write a persuasive essay explaining why your country should invest more time, money, and effort to explore the reaches of outer space. Use specific reasons and examples to explain your position.



CREATIVE: A new planet has been discovered. Give the planet a name, describe its topographical features and climate, and tell what, if anything, inhabits this world.



ARGUMENTATIVE: Do you have a phone? Do you think most teens need a phone? Why or why not? Explain your answer using sound reasoning.



EXPOSITORY: A devastating tornado has leveled much of a nearby small town. Write an essay explaining what you would do to help these families recover from their loss.



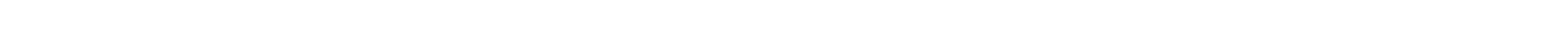
REFLECTIVE: Write a paragraph describing what you like most about yourself.



PERSUASIVE: Do you know a grandparent or elderly neighbor who still doesn't use modern technology? Write a letter convincing them to get a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Considering their interests, give them at least three reasons or benefits for owning and using such a device.



CREATIVE: Describe a picnic from the point of view of an ant, a squirrel, or a bird. Use vivid, sensory details.





ARGUMENTATIVE: *E pluribus unum*, the motto of United States of America, means from many, one. Which do you think is the more important: the rights of the individual or the rights of the community? Use examples to support your view.



EXPOSITORY: Write an essay explaining how someone should choose a pet that matches their lifestyle.



REFLECTIVE: Write about a time you helped someone who was in need.



PERSUASIVE: Research shows the average American teen spends up to 40 hours in front of television and computer screens each week. Do you think this is too much? Write an essay convincing teens to spend less time in front of the screen. Use examples to support your view, and suggest alternatives.



CREATIVE: Will robots of the future have human qualities? Will they have a sense of touch? Will they be able to experience feelings and emotions? If you could design a robot, describe the human qualities it would have.



ARGUMENTATIVE: What is the most important key to success? How much do staying in school, learning a foreign language, and earning a college degree factor into your idea of success? Support your opinion with logic and examples.



EXPOSITORY: Imagine you have landed on the cover of a magazine. Write a paragraph telling which magazine it is and why you received this recognition.





REFLECTIVE: Some of our richest or most meaningful experiences take place when we travel. Write a paragraph or two about a memorable experience you had when you were traveling. To draw your reader in, include emotional words along with sensory descriptions of sight, sound, touch, taste, or smell.



PERSUASIVE: Genetic testing can reveal markers that indicate the carrier is more likely to contract various diseases. Make a case for or against this kind of genetic testing for the general public.



CREATIVE: You are a friendly Chihuahua who just met the poodle that lives next door. The two of you quickly discover how much you have in common, including a history of embarrassing dog outfits. Describe the fairy costume your family made you wear recently.



ARGUMENTATIVE: Should elderly drivers be required to reapply for their driving licenses every year? Write an essay that supports your opinion with facts, examples, and common sense.



EXPOSITORY: Describe an experience in which nature challenged, refreshed, humbled, or energized you.



REFLECTIVE: What “little thing” can you do to make this world a better place? Write about it.



APRIL WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Your friend's mom is thinking about homeschooling her kids. Can you help her make up her mind? Give at least three reasons in your persuasive essay why she should—or should not—homeschool.

CREATIVE Write story or description of a scene that includes these three items: a *blue ball*, a *photograph*, and a *key*.

ARGUMENTATIVE Where do you stand on the issue of consuming animals? Using examples, write an essay explaining why you choose to eat—or not eat—meat.

EXPOSITORY As an ambassador to a distant planet, you plan to take three gifts from Earth. What items will you choose? Explain why each is a fitting gift to offer from your own planet.

REFLECTIVE A role model is a person you look up to—someone you respect or admire more than anyone else. Who is your role model? Your grandpa? Youth pastor? Coach? What have you learned from this person? Which of their character qualities or traits do you hope to one day have yourself? Write an essay explaining how this individual has influenced who you are today.

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Travel to foreign countries builds empathy for others, among other benefits. Make a case that all high school students should (or should not) take at least one trip abroad before graduation.

CREATIVE The Latin phrase *Et tu Brute* means “Even you, Brutus?” In Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, these final words of Caesar—as he is murdered by his friend Marcus Brutus—express the pain of betrayal. Tell the story of a terrible betrayal. It can be one you experienced, one you read of, or one you create from your own imagination.

ARGUMENTATIVE Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about why people should stop spoiling their pets. Cite three main reasons and develop them with convincing examples.

EXPOSITORY Almost every family marks important milestones in their own special way. Describe a family celebration that has meaning for you, and explain why.

REFLECTIVE What special qualities make you stand out in a crowd of people? Write about them.

APRIL WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE Little Free Library offers books housed in small containers, available free of charge to members of the local community. Persuade your local city council to install Little Free Libraries in your neighborhood.

CREATIVE Write a fairy tale that includes a tower, a cloak, and something poison. Begin with the familiar “Once upon a time.”

ARGUMENTATIVE International adoptions have become more and more popular in recent years. In light of both glowing reports and horror stories, should we encourage or discourage international adoptions? Take a stance on this issue, and back up your assertions with compelling narratives and facts.

EXPOSITORY Are you shy, silly, or sensitive? Quiet or quirky? Gentle, generous, or gregarious? There are hundreds of adjectives we can use to describe our nature or personality. Choose three adjectives that describe you perfectly. Write an essay giving examples of how each word accurately fits your personality.

REFLECTIVE Loyalty and friendship are common themes in books and movies. Write about a time when friendship proved to be of great value to you.

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE The Ice Bucket Challenge raised awareness and funds to fight ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Choose a cause that you feel strongly about and persuade its advocacy organization to have a similar challenge that you describe.

CREATIVE Tell the story of a relative or ancestor who immigrated to the United States. Highlight a few of the challenges they faced while building a new life. If you only know a small part of the story, consider creating a tale of historical fiction by weaving in details that may or may not have happened.

ARGUMENTATIVE Every human being is a steward of Earth’s resources. Do you believe society should encourage more recycling? Or, should we learn to use less stuff in the first place? Explain.

EXPOSITORY Make a list of trendy shoe styles. Choose three from the list, describe each one, and explain why they’re so popular.

REFLECTIVE Write an essay about the time an unexpected visitor came to your door. What changed in your family or your home because of this person?

PERSUASIVE

Your friend's mom is thinking about homeschooling her kids. Can you help her make up her mind? Give at least three reasons in your persuasive essay why she should—or should not—homeschool.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Write story or description of a scene that includes these three items: a blue ball, a photograph, and a key.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Where do you stand on the issue of consuming animals? Using examples, write an essay explaining why you choose to eat—or not eat—meat.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

As an ambassador to a distant planet, you plan to take three gifts from Earth. What items will you choose? Explain why each is a fitting gift to offer from your own planet.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

A role model is a person you look up to—someone you respect or admire more than anyone else. Who is your role model? Your grandpa? Youth pastor? Coach? What have you learned from this person? Which of their character qualities or traits do you hope to one day have yourself? Write an essay explaining how this individual has influenced who you are today.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Travel to foreign countries builds empathy for others, among other benefits. Make a case that all high school students should (or should not) take at least one trip abroad before graduation.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

The Latin phrase *Et tu Brute* means “Even you, Brutus?” In Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*, these final words of Caesar—as he is murdered by his friend Marcus Brutus—express the pain of betrayal. Tell the story of a terrible betrayal. It can be one you experienced, one you read of, or one you create from your own imagination.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about why people should stop spoiling their pets. Cite three main reasons and develop them with convincing examples.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Almost every family marks important milestones in their own special way. Describe a family celebration that has meaning for you, and explain why.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

What special qualities make you stand out in a crowd of people? Write about them.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Little Free Library offers books housed in small containers, available free of charge to members of the local community. Persuade your local city council to install Little Free Libraries in your neighborhood.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Write a fairy tale that includes a tower, a cloak, and something poison. Begin with the familiar "Once upon a time."

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

International adoptions have become more and more popular in recent years. In light of both glowing reports and horror stories, should we encourage or discourage international adoptions? Take a stance on this issue, and back up your assertions with compelling narratives and facts.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Are you shy, silly, or sensitive? Quiet or quirky? Gentle, generous, or gregarious? There are hundreds of adjectives we can use to describe our nature or personality. Choose three adjectives that describe you perfectly. Write an essay giving examples of how each word accurately fits your personality.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Loyalty and friendship are common themes in books and movies. Write about a time when friendship proved to be of great value to you.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

The Ice Bucket Challenge raised awareness and funds to fight ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Choose a cause that you feel strongly about and persuade its advocacy organization to have a similar challenge that you describe.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Tell the story of a relative or ancestor who immigrated to the United States. Highlight a few of the challenges they faced while building a new life. If you only know a small part of the story, consider creating a tale of historical fiction by weaving in details that may or may not have happened.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Every human being is a steward of Earth's resources. Do you believe society should encourage more recycling? Or, should we learn to use less stuff in the first place? Explain.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Make a list of trendy shoe styles. Choose three from the list, describe each one, and explain why they're so popular.

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write an essay about the time an unexpected visitor came to your door. What changed in your family or your home because of this person?

April

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Your friend's mom is thinking about homeschooling her kids. Can you help her make up her mind? Give at least three reasons in your persuasive essay why she should—or should not—homeschool.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Write story or description of a scene that includes these three items: a blue ball, a photograph, and a key.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Where do you stand on the issue of consuming animals? Using examples, write an essay explaining why you choose to eat—or not eat—meat.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: As an ambassador to a distant planet, you plan to take three gifts from Earth. What items will you choose? Explain why each is a fitting gift to offer from your own planet.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: A role model is a person you look up to—someone you respect or admire more than anyone else. Who is your role model? Your grandpa? Youth pastor? Coach? What have you learned from this person? Which of their character qualities or traits do you hope to one day have yourself? Write an essay explaining how this individual has influenced who you are today.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Travel to foreign countries builds empathy for others, among other benefits. Make a case that all high school students should (or should not) take at least one trip abroad before graduation.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: The Latin phrase *Et tu Brute* means “Even you, Brutus?” In Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*, these final words of Caesar—as he is murdered by his friend Marcus Brutus—express the pain of betrayal. Tell the story of a terrible betrayal. It can be one you experienced, one you read of, or one you create from your own imagination.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about why people should stop spoiling their pets. Cite three main reasons and develop them with convincing examples.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Almost every family marks important milestones in their own special way. Describe a family celebration that has meaning for you, and explain why.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: What special qualities make you stand out in a crowd of people? Write about them.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Little Free Library offers books housed in small containers, available free of charge to members of the local community. Persuade your local city council to install Little Free Libraries in your neighborhood.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Write a fairy tale that includes a tower, a cloak, and something poison. Begin with the familiar “Once upon a time.”

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: International adoptions have become more and more popular in recent years. In light of both glowing reports and horror stories, should we encourage or discourage international adoptions? Take a stance on this issue, and back up your assertions with compelling narratives and facts.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Are you shy, silly, or sensitive? Quiet or quirky? Gentle, generous, or gregarious? There are hundreds of adjectives we can use to describe our nature or personality. Choose three adjectives that describe you perfectly. Write an essay giving examples of how each word accurately fits your personality.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: Loyalty and friendship are common themes in books and movies. Write about a time when friendship proved to be of great value to you.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: The Ice Bucket Challenge raised awareness and funds to fight ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Choose a cause that you feel strongly about and persuade its advocacy organization to have a similar challenge that you describe.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Tell the story of a relative or ancestor who immigrated to the United States. Highlight a few of the challenges they faced while building a new life. If you only know a small part of the story, consider creating a tale of historical fiction by weaving in details that may or may not have happened.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Every human being is a steward of Earth’s resources. Do you believe society should encourage more recycling? Or, should we learn to use less stuff in the first place? Explain.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Make a list of trendy shoe styles. Choose three from the list, describe each one, and explain why they’re so popular.

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Write an essay about the time an unexpected visitor came to your door. What changed in your family or your home because of this person?

WriteShop® APRIL
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



MAY WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Convince the local school board either to do away with or emphasize cursive and manuscript handwriting.

CREATIVE Choose a favorite book and turn to page 9. Find the 3rd sentence on that page. Then write a story that begins with that sentence.

ARGUMENTATIVE Do you think cell phones should be used educationally? How could your mom use a cell phone as a teaching tool? How could you use one as a learning tool? Explain whether you agree or disagree that a cell phone can distract you from your schoolwork.

EXPOSITORY Birthdays are celebrated in many different ways. Describe birthday festivities in your house, including the food, the gifts, and favorite family traditions.

REFLECTIVE Each of us has experienced something scary, hurtful, or unpleasant—or done something we later regretted. If you could press a button to delete one such personal experience or event, would you do it? Why or why not?

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Good habits are important to our physical, emotional, and financial health. Select one of your best habits, and persuade someone to make that habit a part of their lives.

CREATIVE Imagine you are a private investigator who must gather clues for a strange case in a quiet fishing village. Describe how you will you dress, act, and speak to blend in with the local residents.

ARGUMENTATIVE Should parents restrict the number of hours their teens are allowed to play video games during the week? Take a stand and support your position with solid arguments.

EXPOSITORY Think of a character from literature you might like to trade places with. Describe this character and explain why you'd want to make the switch.

REFLECTIVE Are you more of a dreamer or a doer? Give examples to illustrate.

MAY WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE We've all heard the phrase, "Actions speak louder than words." Is this true when it comes to teachers, coaches, or music instructors? Develop your thoughts into one key point with persuasive arguments.

CREATIVE If any of these three inanimate objects could talk, how would *your room, computer, or family car* describe you?

ARGUMENTATIVE Explain why cell phones should be turned off in restaurants, airplanes, and theaters.

EXPOSITORY Do you have brothers and sisters? Siblings don't always get along! Are you and your siblings close, or do you bicker a lot? Describe a problem this can create in a family, and suggest the best way to handle the situation.

REFLECTIVE Compare and contrast two careers that interest you. What aspects of the jobs appeal to you? How will your future look if you choose one of these two paths?

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE Travel opens our eyes to other cultures and ways of life. It exposes us to breathtaking scenery, ancient ruins, impressive architecture, and new foods. Think of a place you have visited that opened up your eyes to something brand new. Write an essay convincing a friend to travel to this place. Use personal examples and facts to explain your reasons.

CREATIVE Describe a sibling (or your best friend) as fully and accurately as possible in the 280-character limit of a Twitter tweet.

ARGUMENTATIVE Choose one television show that you find absurd or offensive. Make a case that it should be taken off the airwaves.

EXPOSITORY Describe the car, house, or workplace of the future. Which familiar items are missing? What new technology has developed, and how does it contribute to our well-being, comfort, or convenience?

REFLECTIVE Write an essay about an important lesson you learned from a literary work you have read. Explain by using specific details from this piece of literature.

PERSUASIVE

Convince the local school board either to do away with or emphasize cursive and manuscript handwriting.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Choose a favorite book and turn to page 9. Find the third sentence on that page. Then write a story that begins with that sentence.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Do you think cell phones should be used educationally? How could your mom use a cell phone as a teaching tool? How could you use one as a learning tool? Explain whether you agree or disagree that a cell phone can distract you from your schoolwork.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Birthdays are celebrated in many different ways. Describe birthday festivities in your house, including the food, the gifts, and favorite family traditions.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Each of us has experienced something scary, hurtful, or unpleasant—or done something we later regretted. If you could press a button to delete one such personal experience or event, would you do it? Why or why not?

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Good habits are important to our physical, emotional, and financial health. Select one of your best habits, and persuade someone to make that habit a part of their lives.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine you are a private investigator who must gather clues for a strange case in a quiet fishing village. Describe how you will you dress, act, and speak to blend in with the local residents.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Should parents restrict the number of hours their teens are allowed to play video games during the week? Take a stand and support your position with solid arguments.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Think of a character from literature you might like to trade places with. Describe this character and explain why you'd want to make the switch.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Are you more of a dreamer or a doer?
Give examples to illustrate.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

We've all heard the phrase, "Actions speak louder than words." Is this true when it comes to teachers, coaches, or music instructors? Develop your thoughts into one key point with persuasive arguments.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

If any of these three inanimate objects could talk, how would your room, computer, or family car describe you?

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Explain why cell phones should be turned off in restaurants, airplanes, and theaters.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Do you have brothers and sisters? Siblings don't always get along! Are you and your siblings close, or do you bicker a lot? Describe a problem this can create in a family, and suggest the best way to handle the situation.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Compare and contrast two careers that interest you. What aspects of the jobs appeal to you? How will your future look if you choose one of these two paths?

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Travel opens our eyes to other cultures and ways of life. It exposes us to breathtaking scenery, ancient ruins, impressive architecture, and new foods. Think of a place you have visited that opened up your eyes to something brand new. Write an essay convincing a friend to travel to this place. Use personal examples and facts to explain your reasons.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Describe a sibling (or your best friend) as fully and accurately as possible in the 280-character limit of a Twitter tweet.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Choose one television show that you find absurd or offensive. Make a case that it should be taken off the airwaves.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Describe the car, house, or workplace of the future. Which familiar items are missing? What new technology has developed, and how does it contribute to our well-being, comfort, or convenience?

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

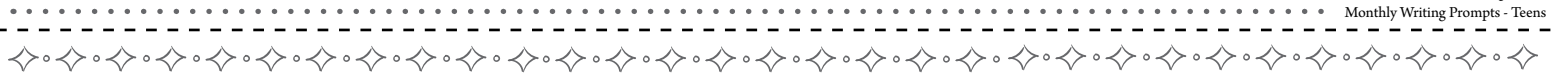
Write an essay about an important lesson you learned from a literary work you have read. Explain by using specific details from this piece of literature.

May

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Convince the local school board either to do away with or emphasize cursive and manuscript handwriting.



WriteShop® MAY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE: Choose a favorite book and turn to page 9. Find the third sentence on that page. Then write a story that begins with that sentence.



WriteShop® MAY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE: Do you think cell phones should be used educationally? How could your mom use a cell phone as a teaching tool? How could you use one as a learning tool? Explain whether you agree or disagree that a cell phone can distract you from your schoolwork.



WriteShop® MAY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY: Birthdays are celebrated in many different ways. Describe birthday festivities in your house, including the food, the gifts, and favorite family traditions.



WriteShop® MAY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE: Each of us has experienced something scary, hurtful, or unpleasant—or done something we later regretted. If you could press a button to delete one such personal experience or event, would you do it? Why or why not?



WriteShop® MAY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE: Good habits are important to our physical, emotional, and financial health. Select one of your best habits, and persuade someone to make that habit a part of their lives.



WriteShop® MAY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE: Imagine you are a private investigator who must gather clues for a strange case in a quiet fishing village. Describe how you will you dress, act, and speak to blend in with the local residents.



WriteShop® MAY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Should parents restrict the number of hours their teens are allowed to play video games during the week? Take a stand and support your position with solid arguments.



EXPOSITORY: Think of a character from literature you might like to trade places with. Describe this character and explain why you'd want to make the switch.



REFLECTIVE: Are you more of a dreamer or a doer? Give examples to illustrate.



PERSUASIVE: We've all heard the phrase, "Actions speak louder than words." Is this true when it comes to teachers, coaches, or music instructors? Develop your thoughts into one key point with persuasive arguments.



CREATIVE: If any of these three inanimate objects could talk, how would your room, computer, or family car describe you?



ARGUMENTATIVE: Explain why cell phones should be turned off in restaurants, airplanes, and theaters.



EXPOSITORY: Do you have brothers and sisters? Siblings don't always get along! Are you and your siblings close, or do you bicker a lot? Describe a problem this can create in a family, and suggest the best way to handle the situation.





REFLECTIVE: Compare and contrast two careers that interest you. What aspects of the jobs appeal to you? How will your future look if you choose one of these two paths?



PERSUASIVE: Travel opens our eyes to other cultures and ways of life. It exposes us to breathtaking scenery, ancient ruins, impressive architecture, and new foods. Think of a place you have visited that opened up your eyes to something brand new. Write an essay convincing a friend to travel to this place. Use personal examples and facts to explain your reasons.



CREATIVE: Describe a sibling (or your best friend) as fully and accurately as possible in the 280-character limit of a Twitter tweet.



ARGUMENTATIVE: Choose one television show that you find absurd or offensive. Make a case that it should be taken off the airwaves.



EXPOSITORY: Describe the car, house, or workplace of the future. Which familiar items are missing? What new technology has developed, and how does it contribute to our well-being, comfort, or convenience?



REFLECTIVE: Write an essay about an important lesson you learned from a literary work you have read. Explain by using specific details from this piece of literature.



JUNE WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE You've always wanted a pet! The local pet store has received a shipment of unusual animals, including a *hedgehog*, *penguin*, *skunk*, *tarantula*, and *kangaroo*. Write a letter in which you persuade your parents that you're mature enough to own one of these animals. Use three strong arguments to convince them you will properly feed and care for your new pet.

CREATIVE Your pen pal and family are thinking of moving to your hometown. Describe your town or city, especially the sights and scenery it offers to curious visitors.

ARGUMENTATIVE In your opinion, should we develop robots to replace human jobs in factories, warehouses, and fast food restaurants? Why or why not?

EXPOSITORY Would you rather build a house on the beach, in the mountains, or in a peaceful valley? Explain the benefits of your choice.

REFLECTIVE Throughout your life, you may be asked to do things you don't want to do. Write about a time when this happened to you. Did you learn something along the way?

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Zoo membership costs are going up, and many families can't afford ticket prices. Devise a plan to make the zoo more affordable to low-income families and convince the board of directors to implement it.

CREATIVE Describe the feelings of an astronaut living on the International Space Station. Consider the size of the living spaces, the loneliness and isolation, the excitement of conducting science experiments, etc.

ARGUMENTATIVE While on vacation with your grandparents in Hawaii, you see an advertisement offering a 2-for-1 deal on a snorkeling or parasailing excursion. Make a list of reasons why your elderly grandma should do one of these activities with you.

EXPOSITORY *Setting* is a literary term used to identify and establish the time, place, and mood of a story's events. Choose a novel you have read, and explain how the setting complements the story.

REFLECTIVE What takes you out of your comfort zone? Give examples to illustrate.

JUNE WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE As science makes new discoveries, medical advice changes. Some examples are the low-fat diet craze and the warning not to eat eggs on a daily basis. What standard medical advice or scientific truth do you feel in your gut is wrong and will one day be disproved? Convince your reader of your conviction.

CREATIVE Imagine it is June 29, 1776, and you are a member of the 2nd Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Yesterday, you heard a reading of the “fair copy”—or committee draft—of the Declaration of Independence. Write how these words made you feel: *“We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”*

ARGUMENTATIVE More and more print newspapers are going out of business due to low readership. Is this change good, bad, or neutral? Defend your position.

EXPOSITORY You have the opportunity to travel somewhere for a year. Would you rather spend your year exploring one foreign country, traveling the world in a sailboat, or living at a research station in a remote corner of the globe? Describe some of the things you might enjoy doing during that challenging and memorable year.

REFLECTIVE Do you sometimes wish you could choose a new name for yourself? If you had the chance, what would it be? Why would you choose it? What would you want this new name to say about you?

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE DNA testing services such as ancestry.com and 23andMe can reveal the nationality of your ancestors, even telling what percentage of your background is from regions of different continents. Convince your parents to spend the money on this test by telling them the benefits you will receive.

CREATIVE Imagine you are a young person on the Mayflower, and your father is exploring the wild land just beyond the shoreline. What is it like living on a ship in the winter? What do you miss most about England and Holland? What kind of life do you hope for in the New World? Write down your thoughts as if you were writing a journal or diary entry.

JUNE WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 4

ARGUMENTATIVE Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circuses have stopped using elephants in their shows due to concerns of animal cruelty. Discuss your opinion about that decision. Are there any other changes you think circuses should make?

EXPOSITORY Your mom and dad are your first—and most influential—teachers. Describe a time when you learned an important lesson from one of your parents.

REFLECTIVE You are starting university in the fall, and a relative says, “You’ll never earn your degree!” Does that statement discourage you or motivate you? Explain how you would feel and how you would react.

PERSUASIVE

You've always wanted a pet! The local pet store has received a shipment of unusual animals, including a hedgehog, penguin, skunk, tarantula, and kangaroo. Write a letter in which you persuade your parents that you're mature enough to own one of these animals. Use three strong arguments to convince them you will properly feed and care for your new pet.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Your pen pal and family are thinking of moving to your hometown. Describe your town or city, especially the sights and scenery it offers to curious visitors.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

In your opinion, should we develop robots to replace human jobs in factories, warehouses, and fast food restaurants? Why or why not?

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Would you rather build a house on the beach, in the mountains, or in a peaceful valley? Explain the benefits of your choice.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Throughout your life, you may be asked to do things you don't want to do. Write about a time when this happened to you. Did you learn something along the way?

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Zoo membership costs are going up, and many families can't afford ticket prices. Devise a plan to make the zoo more affordable to low-income families and convince the board of directors to implement it.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Describe the feelings of an astronaut living on the International Space Station. Consider the size of the living spaces, the loneliness and isolation, the excitement of conducting science experiments, etc.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

While on vacation with your grandparents in Hawaii, you see an advertisement offering a 2-for-1 deal on a snorkeling or parasailing excursion. Make a list of reasons why your elderly grandma should do one of these activities with you.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Setting is a literary term used to identify and establish the time, place, and mood of a story's events. Choose a novel you have read, and explain how the setting complements the story.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

What takes you out of your comfort zone? Give examples to illustrate.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

As science makes new discoveries, medical advice changes. Some examples are the low-fat diet craze and the warning not to eat eggs on a daily basis. What standard medical advice or scientific truth do you feel in your gut is wrong and will one day be disproved? Convince your reader of your conviction.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine it is June 29, 1776, and you are a member of the 2nd Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Yesterday, you heard a reading of the "fair copy"—or committee draft—of the Declaration of Independence. Write how these words made you feel: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

More and more print newspapers are going out of business due to low readership. Is this change good, bad, or neutral? Defend your position.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

You have the opportunity to travel somewhere for a year. Would you rather spend your year exploring one foreign country, traveling the world in a sailboat, or living at a research station in a remote corner of the globe? Describe some of the things you might enjoy doing during that challenging and memorable year.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Do you sometimes wish you could choose a new name for yourself? If you had the chance, what would it be? Why would you choose it? What would you want this new name to say about you?

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

DNA testing services such as ancestry.com and 23andMe can reveal the nationality of your ancestors, even telling what percentage of your background is from regions of different continents. Convince your parents to spend the money on this test by telling them the benefits you will receive.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine you are a young person on the Mayflower, and your father is exploring the wild land just beyond the shoreline. What is it like living on a ship in the winter? What do you miss most about England and Holland? What kind of life do you hope for in the New World? Write down your thoughts as if you were writing a journal or diary entry.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circuses have stopped using elephants in their shows due to concerns of animal cruelty. Discuss your opinion about that decision. Are there any other changes you think circuses should make?

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Your mom and dad are your first—and most influential—teachers. Describe a time when you learned an important lesson from one of your parents.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

You are starting university in the fall, and a relative says, “You’ll never earn your degree!” Does that statement discourage you or motivate you? Explain how you would feel and how you would react.

June

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: You've always wanted a pet! The local pet store has received a shipment of unusual animals, including a hedgehog, penguin, skunk, tarantula, and kangaroo. Write a letter in which you persuade your parents that you're mature enough to own one of these animals. Use three strong arguments to convince them you will properly feed and care for your new pet.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Your pen pal and family are thinking of moving to your hometown. Describe your town or city, especially the sights and scenery it offers to curious visitors.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: In your opinion, should we develop robots to replace human jobs in factories, warehouses, and fast food restaurants? Why or why not?

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Would you rather build a house on the beach, in the mountains, or in a peaceful valley? Explain the benefits of your choice.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Throughout your life, you may be asked to do things you don't want to do. Write about a time when this happened to you. Did you learn something along the way?

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Zoo membership costs are going up, and many families can't afford ticket prices. Devise a plan to make the zoo more affordable to low-income families and convince the board of directors to implement it.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Describe the feelings of an astronaut living on the International Space Station. Consider the size of the living spaces, the loneliness and isolation, the excitement of conducting science experiments, etc.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: While on vacation with your grandparents in Hawaii, you see an advertisement offering a 2-for-1 deal on a snorkeling or parasailing excursion. Make a list of reasons why your elderly grandma should do one of these activities with you.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: *Setting* is a literary term used to identify and establish the time, place, and mood of a story's events. Choose a novel you have read, and explain how the setting complements the story.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: What takes you out of your comfort zone? Give examples to illustrate.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: As science makes new discoveries, medical advice changes. Some examples are the low-fat diet craze and the warning not to eat eggs on a daily basis. What standard medical advice or scientific truth do you feel in your gut is wrong and will one day be disproved? Convince your reader of your conviction.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Imagine it is June 29, 1776, and you are a member of the 2nd Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Yesterday, you heard a reading of the “fair copy”—or committee draft—of the Declaration of Independence. Write how these words made you feel: “We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; they are endowed by their Creator with inherent and inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: More and more print newspapers are going out of business due to low readership. Is this change good, bad, or neutral? Defend your position.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: You have the opportunity to travel somewhere for a year. Would you rather spend your year exploring one foreign country, traveling the world in a sailboat, or living at a research station in a remote corner of the globe? Describe some of the things you might enjoy doing during that challenging and memorable year.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: Do you sometimes wish you could choose a new name for yourself? If you had the chance, what would it be? Why would you choose it? What would you want this new name to say about you?

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: DNA testing services such as [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and 23andMe can reveal the nationality of your ancestors, even telling what percentage of your background is from regions of different continents. Convince your parents to spend the money on this test by telling them the benefits you will receive.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Imagine you are a young person on the Mayflower, and your father is exploring the wild land just beyond the shoreline. What is it like living on a ship in the winter? What do you miss most about England and Holland? What kind of life do you hope for in the New World? Write down your thoughts as if you were writing a journal or diary entry.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circuses have stopped using elephants in their shows due to concerns of animal cruelty. Discuss your opinion about that decision. Are there any other changes you think circuses should make?

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Your mom and dad are your first—and most influential—teachers. Describe a time when you learned an important lesson from one of your parents.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: You are starting university in the fall, and a relative says, “You’ll never earn your degree!” Does that statement discourage you or motivate you? Explain how you would feel and how you would react.

WriteShop® JUNE
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



JULY WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Some families engage in a no-buy experiment for one year, not spending money on anything new beyond life's necessities—no games or gadgets, no vacations, no shoes or clothes—and you think this is a great idea! Persuade your family to take this challenge by giving reasons and explaining the potential benefits.

CREATIVE Our lives can be compared to pieces of clay, which are slowly molded and shaped into finished works of art. Write about the feelings of a potter or sculptor as—slowly but surely—his clay becomes something useful and beautiful.

ARGUMENTATIVE The Federal Trade Commission says bloggers, athletes, and celebrities must disclose when a company pays them to endorse a product. What if there were no law requiring this practice? Should they still reveal this information, or would it be okay not to explain their relationship with the company?

EXPOSITORY With vivid, descriptive writing, relate the true story of an underdog who won a contest, earned a scholarship, or worked hard to become wealthy.

REFLECTIVE What is your earliest memory? How old were you? Using sensory details, write down everything you can remember about that moment.

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Funds have dried up, and the city council has decided to close the neighborhood parks. Write a letter to the city council explaining the reasons why this is a bad idea and urging them to reverse their decision.

CREATIVE Imagine a computer that controls the lights in your house, the locks on your doors, and the sprinklers in your yard. If the computer turned against you, what steps would you take to defeat it? Write about your adventure (and, remember to be grateful that humans and machines are not created equal).

ARGUMENTATIVE Public school kids frequently are expected to raise money for their schools by way of various fundraisers. What are your thoughts on sending elementary kids out to hawk wares? Explain why you hold this position.

EXPOSITORY Do you enjoy reading science fiction? Why do you think it's such a popular genre? Explain its appeal using examples from sci-fi literature you have read.

REFLECTIVE Write a reflective essay on this topic: *I am not the same person I was when I was younger.*

JULY WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE As a citizen of your town, you want to convince the city council that pets should wear clothing. Prepare an explanation to present at the next town meeting.

CREATIVE Think of the last really good meal you had at home. Write about each food as if it were on a menu in a restaurant, giving it both a name and an enticing description.

ARGUMENTATIVE If you were the governor of your state and had a budget surplus, how would you use that extra money to benefit your state? Support your choices with logical reasons.

EXPOSITORY Think of something you enjoy doing, such as baking brownies, making a bird feeder, or washing the dog. Make an instruction manual, explaining the steps of the process so someone could complete the task by following your directions.

REFLECTIVE No one is immune to failure. Scientists, authors, athletes, surgeons, and great leaders can all recount times of falling flat on their faces. Describe a time when you failed at something, and write a short essay explaining what you learned from this experience.

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE Invent a crazy new sport you would like to add to the Summer or Winter Olympics. Write a letter to the International Olympic Committee in which you describe your sporting event and persuade them to consider adding it as an event.

CREATIVE Imagine someone hands you \$10,000 on the day of your high school graduation! But wait—there's one condition. You must spend part of it immediately, save another part for at least twenty years, and give the rest away. What will you buy? How will you invest? Which charity, cause, or ministry will you support? Explain your choices.

ARGUMENTATIVE Should parents place a limit on how much screen time their teens can have each day, or should students be allowed to monitor their own screen time? Decide on a position and give reasons for your opinion.

EXPOSITORY The Latin phrase *caveat emptor* means *let the buyer beware*. Choose something you recently purchased or received as a gift and write a detailed product review describing both positive and negative features. With your parents' permission, post it on the site where you bought it (or on Amazon).

REFLECTIVE What do you worry about?

PERSUASIVE

Some families engage in a no-buy experiment for one year, not spending money on anything new beyond life's necessities—no games or gadgets, no vacations, no shoes or clothes—and you think this is a great idea! Persuade your family to take this challenge by giving reasons and explaining the potential benefits.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Our lives can be compared to pieces of clay, which are slowly molded and shaped into finished works of art. Write about the feelings of a potter or sculptor as—slowly but surely—his clay becomes something useful and beautiful.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

The Federal Trade Commission says bloggers, athletes, and celebrities must disclose when a company pays them to endorse a product. What if there were no law requiring this practice? Should they still reveal this information, or would it be okay not to explain their relationship with the company?

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

With vivid, descriptive writing, relate the true story of an underdog who won a contest, earned a scholarship, or worked hard to become wealthy.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

What is your earliest memory? How old were you? Using sensory details, write down everything you can remember about that moment.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Funds have dried up, and the city council has decided to close the neighborhood parks. Write a letter to the city council explaining the reasons why this is a bad idea and urging them to reverse their decision.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine a computer that controls the lights in your house, the locks on your doors, and the sprinklers in your yard. If the computer turned against you, what steps would you take to defeat it? Write about your adventure (and, remember to be grateful that humans and machines are not created equal).

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Public school kids frequently are expected to raise money for their schools by way of various fundraisers. What are your thoughts on sending elementary kids out to hawk wares? Explain why you hold this position.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Do you enjoy reading science fiction? Why do you think it's such a popular genre? Explain its appeal using examples from sci-fi literature you have read.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write a reflective essay on this topic: I am not the same person I was when I was younger.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

As a citizen of your town, you want to convince the city council that pets should wear clothing. Prepare an explanation to present at the next town meeting.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Think of the last really good meal you had at home. Write about each food as if it were on a menu in a restaurant, giving it both a name and an enticing description.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

If you were the governor of your state and had a budget surplus, how would you use that extra money to benefit your state? Support your choices with logical reasons.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Think of something you enjoy doing, such as baking brownies, making a bird feeder, or washing the dog. Make an instruction manual, explaining the steps of the process so someone could complete the task by following your directions.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

No one is immune to failure. Scientists, authors, athletes, surgeons, and great leaders can all recount times of falling flat on their faces. Describe a time when you failed at something, and write a short essay explaining what you learned from this experience.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Invent a crazy new sport you would like to add to the Summer or Winter Olympics. Write a letter to the International Olympic Committee in which you describe your sporting event and persuade them to consider adding it as an event.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine someone hands you \$10,000 on the day of your high school graduation! But wait—there's one condition. You must spend part of it immediately, save another part for at least twenty years, and give the rest away. What will you buy?

How will you invest? Which charity, cause, or ministry will you support? Explain your choices.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Should parents place a limit on how much screen time their teens can have each day, or should students be allowed to monitor their own screen time? Decide on a position and give reasons for your opinion.

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

The Latin phrase *caveat emptor* means let the buyer beware. Choose something you recently purchased or received as a gift and write a detailed product review describing both positive and negative features. With your parents' permission, post it on the site where you bought it (or on Amazon).

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

What do you worry about?

July

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Some families engage in a no-buy experiment for one year, not spending money on anything new beyond life’s necessities—no games or gadgets, no vacations, no shoes or clothes—and you think this is a great idea! Persuade your family to take this challenge by giving reasons and explaining the potential benefits.

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Our lives can be compared to pieces of clay, which are slowly molded and shaped into finished works of art. Write about the feelings of a potter or sculptor as—slowly but surely—his clay becomes something useful and beautiful.

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: The Federal Trade Commission says bloggers, athletes, and celebrities must disclose when a company pays them to endorse a product. What if there were no law requiring this practice? Should they still reveal this information, or would it be okay not to explain their relationship with the company?

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: With vivid, descriptive writing, relate the true story of an underdog who won a contest, earned a scholarship, or worked hard to become wealthy.

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: What is your earliest memory? How old were you? Using sensory details, write down everything you can remember about that moment.

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Funds have dried up, and the city council has decided to close the neighborhood parks. Write a letter to the city council explaining the reasons why this is a bad idea and urging them to reverse their decision.

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Imagine a computer that controls the lights in your house, the locks on your doors, and the sprinklers in your yard. If the computer turned against you, what steps would you take to defeat it? Write about your adventure (and, remember to be grateful that humans and machines are not created equal).

WriteShop® JULY
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: Public school kids frequently are expected to raise money for their schools by way of various fundraisers. What are your thoughts on sending elementary kids out to hawk wares? Explain why you hold this position.



EXPOSITORY: Do you enjoy reading science fiction? Why do you think it's such a popular genre? Explain its appeal using examples from sci-fi literature you have read.



REFLECTIVE: Write a reflective essay on this topic: I am not the same person I was when I was younger.



PERSUASIVE: As a citizen of your town, you want to convince the city council that pets should wear clothing. Prepare an explanation to present at the next town meeting.



CREATIVE: Think of the last really good meal you had at home. Write about each food as if it were on a menu in a restaurant, giving it both a name and an enticing description.



ARGUMENTATIVE: If you were the governor of your state and had a budget surplus, how would you use that extra money to benefit your state? Support your choices with logical reasons.



EXPOSITORY: Think of something you enjoy doing, such as baking brownies, making a bird feeder, or washing the dog. Make an instruction manual, explaining the steps of the process so someone could complete the task by following your directions.





REFLECTIVE: No one is immune to failure. Scientists, authors, athletes, surgeons, and great leaders can all recount times of falling flat on their faces. Describe a time when you failed at something, and write a short essay explaining what you learned from this experience.



PERSUASIVE: Invent a crazy new sport you would like to add to the Summer or Winter Olympics. Write a letter to the International Olympic Committee in which you describe your sporting event and persuade them to consider adding it as an event.



CREATIVE: Imagine someone hands you \$10,000 on the day of your high school graduation! But wait—there's one condition. You must spend part of it immediately, save another part for at least twenty years, and give the rest away. What will you buy? How will you invest? Which charity, cause, or ministry will you support? Explain your choices.



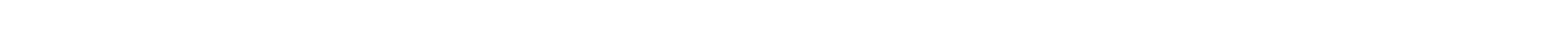
ARGUMENTATIVE: Should parents place a limit on how much screen time their teens can have each day, or should students be allowed to monitor their own screen time? Decide on a position and give reasons for your opinion.



EXPOSITORY: The Latin phrase *caveat emptor* means let the buyer beware. Choose something you recently purchased or received as a gift and write a detailed product review describing both positive and negative features. With your parents' permission, post it on the site where you bought it (or on Amazon).



REFLECTIVE: What do you worry about?



AUGUST WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Think of a favorite restaurant with great food, service, and atmosphere. Then write an essay to convince a city organization to give it an award for best in its category.

CREATIVE Imagine that a time machine has transported you back to an earlier civilization or historical era. Poking through your backpack, you discover some rope, a pocket knife, a roll of duct tape, and three modern technological devices. Where are you? What is the time period? What tech devices are in your backpack? Write a diary or journal entry about how you survive for 24 hours with the help of the items you have on hand.

ARGUMENTATIVE Some cities and states have considered taxing sugary drinks in an effort to improve citizens' health. What do you think about a tax on soda? Support your opinion with logical reasons.

EXPOSITORY Make a list of books you've read that have also been made into movies you've seen, such as *The Book Thief*, *Charlotte's Web*, or *The Hobbit*. Next to each title, note whether you preferred the book or the film version. Choose one title and explain your reasons for preferring one over the other.

REFLECTIVE What area of life are you the most disciplined about? What motivates you to be so diligent in that area compared to other parts of your life?

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE In the West, it traditional for a women to take her husband's surname after marriage. Consider the practical merits of this tradition. Then in an essay, convince a female friend to take her fiance's name or to keep her maiden name instead.

CREATIVE Describe the inside of your refrigerator from the viewpoint of an old, wrinkled apple.

ARGUMENTATIVE A famous football coach once said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Do you agree or disagree? Write a convincing argument, supporting your position with logic and examples.

EXPOSITORY Pick up a book you haven't read yet. What does the cover tell you? Without reading the back cover or inside flaps, write a brief essay describing what you think the book is about.

REFLECTIVE What is the most valuable thing you've ever broken or destroyed? Tell the story and explain how you felt about your action.

AUGUST WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE You have a friend whose social media account is filled with selfies. Write a letter to this friend, explaining how the selfies make him/her appear to the outside world and what he/she should do about the situation.

CREATIVE Today's medical engineers are developing nanobots small enough to travel through the human bloodstream. These tiny robots can carry medicines to hard-to-reach areas of the body, such as brain tissues. Imagine you are a medical nanobot, and write a journal entry about a day in your life.

ARGUMENTATIVE Do apps help you or do they waste time? Make your case for apps as time-saving or time-squandering tools.

EXPOSITORY If you attended school in Morocco, you would probably go home for a two-hour lunch break each day and return to school for classes until 5:00 p.m. Compare and contrast this schedule with a typical school day in your home.

REFLECTIVE Do you enjoy feeding animals such as fish or ducks in a pond or farm animals in a petting zoo? How is that different from taking care of your own pet? Explain why you feel the way you do.

PERSUASIVE City-wide, free WiFi is available in a few select US cities. Should your city or town offer free WiFi access to everyone? Make your case to the local government.

CREATIVE A disheveled man sits at the highway exit, holding a simple cardboard sign reading "Homeless. Need money for food." Tell his story. Who is he and how did he get to the point of begging?

ARGUMENTATIVE What makes for a better children's book character — an obedient one or a contrary one?

EXPOSITORY In literature, conflict is the struggle between two or more opposing forces. When a character wrestles with his conscience or struggles to make a decision, an inner conflict results. This conflict is called *man against himself*. Choose a piece of literature you have read recently. Write a paragraph or two giving some examples of how the conflict of *man against himself* appears within the work.

REFLECTIVE Describe your earliest memory of a certain color. Why do you think this color stands out to you? Does it still make strong impressions on you today? Spend 10 minutes writing anything that comes to mind about this color.

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE

Think of a favorite restaurant with great food, service, and atmosphere. Then write an essay to convince a city organization to give it an award for best in its category.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine that a time machine has transported you back to an earlier civilization or historical era. Poking through your backpack, you discover some rope, a pocket knife, a roll of duct tape, and three modern technological devices. Where are you? What is the time period? What tech devices are in your backpack? Write a diary or journal entry about how you survive for 24 hours with the help of the items you have on hand.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Some cities and states have considered taxing sugary drinks in an effort to improve citizens' health. What do you think about a tax on soda? Support your opinion with logical reasons.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Make a list of books you've read that have also been made into movies you've seen, such as *The Book Thief*, *Charlotte's Web*, or *The Hobbit*. Next to each title, note whether you preferred the book or the film version. Choose one title and explain your reasons for preferring one over the other.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

What area of life are you the most disciplined about? What motivates you to be so diligent in that area compared to other parts of your life?

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

In the West, it is traditional for a women to take her husband's surname after marriage. Consider the practical merits of this tradition. Then in an essay, convince a female friend to take her fiance's name or to keep her maiden name instead.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Describe the inside of your refrigerator from the viewpoint of an old, wrinkled apple.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

A famous football coach once said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Do you agree or disagree? Write a convincing argument, supporting your position with logic and examples.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Pick up a book you haven't read yet. What does the cover tell you? Without reading the back cover or inside flaps, write a brief essay describing what you think the book is about.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

What is the most valuable thing you've ever broken or destroyed? Tell the story and explain how you felt about your action.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

You have a friend whose social media account is filled with selfies. Write a letter to this friend, explaining how the selfies make him/her appear to the outside world and what he/she should do about the situation.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Today's medical engineers are developing nanobots small enough to travel through the human bloodstream. These tiny robots can carry medicines to hard-to-reach areas of the body, such as brain tissues. Imagine you are a medical nanobot, and write a journal entry about a day in your life.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Do apps help you or do they waste time? Make your case for apps as time-saving or time-squandering tools.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

If you attended school in Morocco, you would probably go home for a two-hour lunch break each day and return to school for classes until 5:00 p.m. Compare and contrast this schedule with a typical school day in your home.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Do you enjoy feeding animals such as fish or ducks in a pond or farm animals in a petting zoo? How is that different from taking care of your own pet? Explain why you feel the way you do.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

City-wide, free WiFi is available in a few select US cities. Should your city or town offer free WiFi access to everyone? Make your case to the local government.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

A disheveled man sits at the highway exit, holding a simple cardboard sign reading "Homeless. Need money for food." Tell his story. Who is he and how did he get to the point of begging?

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

What makes for a better children's book character — an obedient one or a contrary one?

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

In literature, conflict is the struggle between two or more opposing forces. When a character wrestles with his conscience or struggles to make a decision, an inner conflict results. This conflict is called *man against himself*. Choose a piece of literature you have read recently. Write a paragraph or two giving some examples of how the conflict of man against himself appears within the work.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Describe your earliest memory of a certain color. Why do you think this color stands out to you? Does it still make strong impressions on you today? Spend 10 minutes writing anything that comes to mind about this color.

August

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Think of a favorite restaurant with great food, service, and atmosphere. Then write an essay to convince a city organization to give it an award for best in its category.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Imagine that a time machine has transported you back to an earlier civilization or historical era. Poking through your backpack, you discover some rope, a pocket knife, a roll of duct tape, and three modern technological devices. Where are you? What is the time period? What tech devices are in your backpack? Write a diary or journal entry about how you survive for 24 hours with the help of the items you have on hand.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Some cities and states have considered taxing sugary drinks in an effort to improve citizens' health. What do you think about a tax on soda? Support your opinion with logical reasons.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Make a list of books you've read that have also been made into movies you've seen, such as *The Book Thief*, *Charlotte's Web*, or *The Hobbit*. Next to each title, note whether you preferred the book or the film version. Choose one title and explain your reasons for preferring one over the other.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: What area of life are you the most disciplined about? What motivates you to be so diligent in that area compared to other parts of your life?

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: In the West, it is traditional for a women to take her husband's surname after marriage. Consider the practical merits of this tradition. Then in an essay, convince a female friend to take her fiance's name or to keep her maiden name instead.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Describe the inside of your refrigerator from the viewpoint of an old, wrinkled apple.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: A famous football coach once said, "Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." Do you agree or disagree? Write a convincing argument, supporting your position with logic and examples.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Pick up a book you haven't read yet. What does the cover tell you? Without reading the back cover or inside flaps, write a brief essay describing what you think the book is about.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: What is the most valuable thing you've ever broken or destroyed? Tell the story and explain how you felt about your action.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: You have a friend whose social media account is filled with selfies. Write a letter to this friend, explaining how the selfies make him/her appear to the outside world and what he/she should do about the situation.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Today's medical engineers are developing nanobots small enough to travel through the human bloodstream. These tiny robots can carry medicines to hard-to-reach areas of the body, such as brain tissues. Imagine you are a medical nanobot, and write a journal entry about a day in your life.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Do apps help you or do they waste time? Make your case for apps as time-saving or time-squandering tools.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: If you attended school in Morocco, you would probably go home for a two-hour lunch break each day and return to school for classes until 5:00 p.m. Compare and contrast this schedule with a typical school day in your home.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: Do you enjoy feeding animals such as fish or ducks in a pond or farm animals in a petting zoo? How is that different from taking care of your own pet? Explain why you feel the way you do.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: City-wide, free WiFi is available in a few select US cities. Should your city or town offer free WiFi access to everyone? Make your case to the local government.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: A disheveled man sits at the highway exit, holding a simple cardboard sign reading “Homeless. Need money for food.” Tell his story. Who is he and how did he get to the point of begging?

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: What makes for a better children’s book character — an obedient one or a contrary one?

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



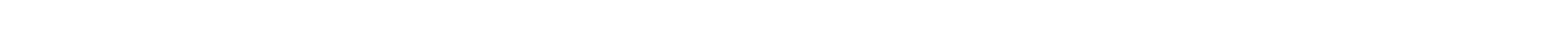
EXPOSITORY: In literature, conflict is the struggle between two or more opposing forces. When a character wrestles with his conscience or struggles to make a decision, an inner conflict results. This conflict is called *man against himself*. Choose a piece of literature you have read recently. Write a paragraph or two giving some examples of how the conflict of man against himself appears within the work.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Describe your earliest memory of a certain color. Why do you think this color stands out to you? Does it still make strong impressions on you today? Spend 10 minutes writing anything that comes to mind about this color.

WriteShop® AUGUST
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



SEPTEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Think of a business you could start, such as pet sitting or a lawn service, that capitalizes on your interests and passions. Write an advertisement for your community newspaper convincing readers that they need your services.

CREATIVE What favorite object do you treasure? It could be a childhood toy, family heirloom, special keepsake, or other item that means a lot to you. Think about how it looks, feels, smells, and sounds, and describe it in detail so your reader will be able to clearly picture it.

ARGUMENTATIVE Some people claim they work best under pressure. Others claim this is a myth. What is your opinion? Support your position with examples.

EXPOSITORY What movie has made the greatest impact on you? Explain your reasons, using three different scenes from the film as examples.

REFLECTIVE Each person experiences at least one milestone event that helps them mature from children into teens and young adults. Write an essay describing one of those key experiences in your own life.

PERSUASIVE Your neighbors think it's cool to be their teen's best friends, but you're not so sure it's a good idea. Write a letter convincing them to consider a different parenting style. Support your argument with logic and examples.

CREATIVE In many homes, the kitchen is the place where everyone seems to gather. Think about a kitchen (yours, a friend's, or a relative's) where you love to hang out. Describe this kitchen, paying special attention to visual details, textures, sounds, aromas, and flavors that make it such a homey and comfortable place to be.

ARGUMENTATIVE Do you believe that wearing a helmet while riding a bike should be required by law? Why or why not? Support your opinion with facts and sound arguments.

EXPOSITORY People love to collect and display items that have sentimental value or special appeal. Key chains, seashells, vintage teacups, action figures, and sports memorabilia are just a few examples. Do you have a special collection? Tell the benefits of having a collection, and explain how someone can begin to grow a collection of his or her own.

WEEK 2

SEPTEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 2

REFLECTIVE How do you want people to remember you? Writing a personal mission statement can help answer these questions. In a paragraph or two, write down your life's "mission," including:

- A description of the character qualities you want to exhibit.
- Three things that are important to you such as faith, family, education, success, etc.
- How you can make these a priority in your day-to-day life.

PERSUASIVE Think of a cause that you strongly believe in. Write several paragraphs persuading others that this cause is worth fighting for. Support your claim with convincing arguments.

CREATIVE A dragon has made a nest in a large tree in your backyard, and the two of you have just started becoming friends. How will you persuade your parents to let it stay?

ARGUMENTATIVE When natural disasters strike, victims often need immediate emergency relief—including water, food, shelter, and medical services—as well as long-term help rebuilding communities. Some say this responsibility lies exclusively with private individuals and charitable organizations, while others believe it's a proper use of federal tax dollars. What do you think? Develop your opinion with persuasive facts and arguments.

EXPOSITORY What have your parents taught you about earning, spending, and saving money? What lessons and attitudes have you learned as a result? Explain with personal examples.

REFLECTIVE In 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on a Caribbean island and became the first European to discover the New World. Would you like to be the first person to achieve or accomplish something? Perhaps you will be the scientist who develops a cure for a deadly disease. Maybe you will be the first woman in your family to earn a Ph.D. Write about the challenges you will face and the encouragement you have already received to make this dream a reality.

WEEK 3

SEPTEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE Are you a health nut who loves flaxseed and green smoothies, or are you a junk-food addict who craves cheese puffs, gummy worms, and diet soda? Think of a friend who is the absolute opposite. Using your most convincing descriptive skills, write an essay persuading them to try your favorite food.

CREATIVE Do you ever wake up in the morning and wish your dream from the night before would come true? Write about one of those dreams and describe why it was so special to you.

ARGUMENTATIVE Cosmetic companies and medical research teams often perform experiments on animals to test products, drug effectiveness, and surgical techniques. Some believe using animals as subjects is inhumane. Do you think this practice is worthwhile, or should it be stopped? Why or why not?

EXPOSITORY If you could erase one day in history, which one would it be? Explain your choice using facts, logic, or examples.

REFLECTIVE *Slow and steady wins the race.* Tell a story of a time you won simply by being consistent day in and day out.

PERSUASIVE

Think of a business you could start, such as pet sitting or a lawn service, that capitalizes on your interests and passions. Write an advertisement for your community newspaper convincing readers that they need your services.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

What favorite object do you treasure? It could be a childhood toy, family heirloom, special keepsake, or other item that means a lot to you. Think about how it looks, feels, smells, and sounds, and describe it in detail so your reader will be able to clearly picture it.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Some people claim they work best under pressure. Others claim this is a myth. What is your opinion? Support your position with examples.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

What movie has made the greatest impact on you? Explain your reasons, using three different scenes from the film as examples.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Each person experiences at least one milestone event that helps them mature from children into teens and young adults. Write an essay describing one of those key experiences in your own life.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Your neighbors think it's cool to be their teen's best friends, but you're not so sure it's a good idea. Write a letter convincing them to consider a different parenting style. Support your argument with logic and examples.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

In many homes, the kitchen is the place where everyone seems to gather. Think about a kitchen (yours, a friend's, or a relative's) where you love to hang out. Describe this kitchen, paying special attention to visual details, textures, sounds, aromas, and flavors that make it such a homey and comfortable place to be.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Do you believe that wearing a helmet while riding a bike should be required by law? Why or why not? Support your opinion with facts and sound arguments.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

People love to collect and display items that have sentimental value or special appeal. Key chains, seashells, vintage teacups, action figures, and sports memorabilia are just a few examples. Do you have a special collection? Tell the benefits of having a collection, and explain how someone can begin to grow a collection of his or her own.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

How do you want people to remember you? Writing a personal mission statement can help answer these questions. In a paragraph or two, write down your life's "mission," including: 1) A description of the character qualities you want to exhibit, 2) Three things that are important to you such as faith, family, education, success, etc., and 3) How you can make these a priority in your day-to-day life.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Think of a cause that you strongly believe in. Write several paragraphs persuading others that this cause is worth fighting for. Support your claim with convincing arguments.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

A dragon has made a nest in a large tree in your backyard, and the two of you have just started becoming friends. How will you persuade your parents to let it stay?

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

When natural disasters strike, victims often need immediate emergency relief—including water, food, shelter, and medical services—as well as long-term help rebuilding communities. Some say this responsibility lies exclusively with private individuals and charitable organizations, while others believe it's a proper use of federal tax dollars. What do you think? Develop your opinion with persuasive facts and arguments.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

What have your parents taught you about earning, spending, and saving money? What lessons and attitudes have you learned as a result? Explain with personal examples.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

In 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on a Caribbean island and became the first European to discover the New World. Would you like to be the first person to achieve or accomplish something? Perhaps you will be the scientist who develops a cure for a deadly disease. Maybe you will be the first woman in your family to earn a Ph.D. Write about the challenges you will face and the encouragement you have already received to make this dream a reality.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Are you a health nut who loves flaxseed and green smoothies, or are you a junk-food addict who craves cheese puffs, gummy worms, and diet soda? Think of a friend who is the absolute opposite. Using your most convincing descriptive skills, write an essay persuading them to try your favorite food.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Do you ever wake up in the morning and wish your dream from the night before would come true? Write about one of those dreams and describe why it was so special to you.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Cosmetic companies and medical research teams often perform experiments on animals to test products, drug effectiveness, and surgical techniques. Some believe using animals as subjects is inhumane. Do you think this practice is worthwhile, or should it be stopped? Why or why not?

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

If you could erase one day in history, which one would it be? Explain your choice using facts, logic, or examples.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Slow and steady wins the race. Tell a story of a time you won simply by being consistent day in and day out.

September

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE

Think of a business you could start, such as pet sitting or a lawn service, that capitalizes on your interests and passions. Write an advertisement for your community newspaper convincing readers that they need your services.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: What favorite object do you treasure? It could be a childhood toy, family heirloom, special keepsake, or other item that means a lot to you. Think about how it looks, feels, smells, and sounds, and describe it in detail so your reader will be able to clearly picture it.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Some people claim they work best under pressure. Others claim this is a myth. What is your opinion? Support your position with examples.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: What movie has made the greatest impact on you? Explain your reasons, using three different scenes from the film as examples.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Each person experiences at least one milestone event that helps them mature from children into teens and young adults. Write an essay describing one of those key experiences in your own life.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Your neighbors think it's cool to be their teen's best friends, but you're not so sure it's a good idea. Write a letter convincing them to consider a different parenting style. Support your argument with logic and examples.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: In many homes, the kitchen is the place where everyone seems to gather. Think about a kitchen (yours, a friend's, or a relative's) where you love to hang out. Describe this kitchen, paying special attention to visual details, textures, sounds, aromas, and flavors that make it such a homey and comfortable place to be.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: Do you believe that wearing a helmet while riding a bike should be required by law? Why or why not? Support your opinion with facts and sound arguments.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: People love to collect and display items that have sentimental value or special appeal. Key chains, seashells, vintage teacups, action figures, and sports memorabilia are just a few examples. Do you have a special collection? Tell the benefits of having a collection, and explain how someone can begin to grow a collection of his or her own.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: How do you want people to remember you? Writing a personal mission statement can help answer these questions. In a paragraph or two, write down your life's "mission," including: 1) A description of the character qualities you want to exhibit, 2) Three things that are important to you such as faith, family, education, success, etc., and 3) How you can make these a priority in your day-to-day life.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Think of a cause that you strongly believe in. Write several paragraphs persuading others that this cause is worth fighting for. Support your claim with convincing arguments.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: A dragon has made a nest in a large tree in your backyard, and the two of you have just started becoming friends. How will you persuade your parents to let it stay?

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: When natural disasters strike, victims often need immediate emergency relief—including water, food, shelter, and medical services—as well as long-term help rebuilding communities. Some say this responsibility lies exclusively with private individuals and charitable organizations, while others believe it's a proper use of federal tax dollars. What do you think? Develop your opinion with persuasive facts and arguments.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: What have your parents taught you about earning, spending, and saving money? What lessons and attitudes have you learned as a result? Explain with personal examples.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: In 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on a Caribbean island and became the first European to discover the New World. Would you like to be the first person to achieve or accomplish something? Perhaps you will be the scientist who develops a cure for a deadly disease. Maybe you will be the first woman in your family to earn a Ph.D. Write about the challenges you will face and the encouragement you have already received to make this dream a reality.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Are you a health nut who loves flaxseed and green smoothies, or are you a junk-food addict who craves cheese puffs, gummy worms, and diet soda? Think of a friend who is the absolute opposite. Using your most convincing descriptive skills, write an essay persuading them to try your favorite food.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Do you ever wake up in the morning and wish your dream from the night before would come true? Write about one of those dreams and describe why it was so special to you.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Cosmetic companies and medical research teams often perform experiments on animals to test products, drug effectiveness, and surgical techniques. Some believe using animals as subjects is inhumane. Do you think this practice is worthwhile, or should it be stopped? Why or why not?

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: If you could erase one day in history, which one would it be? Explain your choice using facts, logic, or examples.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Slow and steady wins the race. Tell a story of a time you won simply by being consistent day in and day out.

WriteShop® SEPTEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



OCTOBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE Do you love tennis or hiking? Do you have a passion for baking or crafts? Think of one of your favorite activities, and write an essay giving several compelling reasons why your readers should give it a try.

CREATIVE Write a story describing what it's like to become a character in your favorite video game.

ARGUMENTATIVE While some people believe children do better when their mothers choose to stay at home full time, others challenge that there is no negative impact on children whose moms work outside the home. What do you think? State your position and develop it using logic, facts, and examples.

EXPOSITORY Which book would you rather read: A scary one that makes your hair stand on end or a funny book that keeps you laughing? Give several reasons for your choice.

REFLECTIVE Music is a powerful memory trigger. Describe a memorable experience that you associate with a certain song or piece of music.

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE Have you ever made a successful change that improved your physical, emotional, or spiritual health? Write an essay in which you persuade a friend to make a change for the better. Use convincing arguments, logic, and examples.

CREATIVE Through the creative power of words, you are free to journey through the realms of your own vivid and unique imagination. What place do you dream about? Paint a word picture of this imaginary land so it seems like a real place to the reader, describing the sky, ground, landforms, water features, and vegetation in colorful detail.

ARGUMENTATIVE More and more places are making it illegal for drivers to use cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. Do you agree, or do you think this law is too harsh? State your position and develop your essay using facts, sound reasoning, and examples from personal experience.

EXPOSITORY Communication has come a long way in the last 20 years! Write several paragraphs discussing some of the most significant changes.

REFLECTIVE Write a letter to yourself—a letter you'll read again when the school year is over. Write about where you are right now, for better or for worse. Then mention a few areas where you want to try harder and do better. Finally, include some things you'd simply like to do differently.

OCTOBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE Many students complain about having to study history. After all, they claim, what value is there in understanding past events? Write an essay convincing your readers that learning about the past is necessary and important.

CREATIVE You have finally earned your pilot's license, and today you are flying solo over a wild and rocky coastline. Vividly describe what you see and feel as you soar above this untamed landscape.

ARGUMENTATIVE In this electronic age, some people think books and paper will become obsolete one day. Do you agree? Defend your opinion.

EXPOSITORY Do you have an itch to travel? Imagine that you get to spend two weeks on the continent of your choosing. Write up an itinerary featuring the countries, cities, or terrain you would most like to explore. How long will you spend at each locale? What sights will you plan to see?

REFLECTIVE Have you ever been angry with a close friend? Write a reflective essay describing this experience.

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE Imagine that you have been asked to help raise money for your favorite charity. Write a letter to a grandparent or other adult persuading them to contribute to the fundraising campaign. Use your most compelling reasons and convincing arguments.

CREATIVE Imagine you're outdoors (at the park or beach, for example) when a storm blows in and catches you unprepared. Write about what it's like to run for cover. Use sensory language to describe not just the storm itself, but also your feelings as you slip, slide, and slosh your way to shelter.

ARGUMENTATIVE It's hard to drive along a highway or through a city and not encounter graffiti. While graffiti is most commonly viewed as vandalism, more and more people see it as "street art." What's your opinion? In an essay, use logic and reason to support your position.

EXPOSITORY Are fame and fortune worthwhile goals? Discuss how someone might achieve fame and fortune and how it can change their life—for better or for worse.

REFLECTIVE Tell about a time when you were involved in an accident. Reflect not only on the circumstances of the accident, but also on your emotions.

PERSUASIVE

Do you love tennis or hiking? Do you have a passion for baking or crafts? Think of one of your favorite activities, and write an essay giving several compelling reasons why your readers should give it a try.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Write a story describing what it's like to become a character in your favorite video game.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

While some people believe children do better when their mothers choose to stay at home full time, others challenge that there is no negative impact on children whose moms work outside the home. What do you think? State your position and develop it using logic, facts, and examples.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Which book would you rather read: A scary one that makes your hair stand on end or a funny book that keeps you laughing? Give several reasons for your choice.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Music is a powerful memory trigger. Describe a memorable experience that you associate with a certain song or piece of music.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Have you ever made a successful change that improved your physical, emotional, or spiritual health? Write an essay in which you persuade a friend to make a change for the better. Use convincing arguments, logic, and examples.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Through the creative power of words, you are free to journey through the realms of your own vivid and unique imagination. What place do you dream about? Paint a word picture of this imaginary land so it seems like a real place to the reader, describing the sky, ground, landforms, water features, and vegetation in colorful detail.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

More and more places are making it illegal for drivers to use cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. Do you agree, or do you think this law is too harsh? State your position and develop your essay using facts, sound reasoning, and examples from personal experience.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Communication has come a long way in the last 20 years! Write several paragraphs discussing some of the most significant changes.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write a letter to yourself—a letter you'll read again when the school year is over. Write about where you are right now, for better or for worse. Then mention a few areas where you want to try harder and do better. Finally, include some things you'd simply like to do differently.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Many students complain about having to study history. After all, they claim, what value is there in understanding past events? Write an essay convincing your readers that learning about the past is necessary and important.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

You have finally earned your pilot's license, and today you are flying solo over a wild and rocky coastline. Vividly describe what you see and feel as you soar above this untamed landscape.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

In this electronic age, some people think books and paper will become obsolete one day. Do you agree? Defend your opinion.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Do you have an itch to travel? Imagine that you get to spend two weeks on the continent of your choosing. Write up an itinerary featuring the countries, cities, or terrain you would most like to explore. How long will you spend at each locale? What sights will you plan to see?

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Have you ever been angry with a close friend? Write a reflective essay describing this experience.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Imagine that you have been asked to help raise money for your favorite charity. Write a letter to a grandparent or other adult persuading them to contribute to the fundraising campaign. Use your most compelling reasons and convincing arguments.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine you're outdoors (at the park or beach, for example) when a storm blows in and catches you unprepared. Write about what it's like to run for cover. Use sensory language to describe not just the storm itself, but also your feelings as you slip, slide, and slosh your way to shelter.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

It's hard to drive along a highway or through a city and not encounter graffiti. While graffiti is most commonly viewed as vandalism, more and more people see it as "street art." What's your opinion? In an essay, use logic and reason to support your position.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Are fame and fortune worthwhile goals?
Discuss how someone might achieve fame and fortune and how it can change their life—for better or for worse.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Tell about a time when you were involved in an accident. Reflect not only on the circumstances of the accident, but also on your emotions.

October

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Do you love tennis or hiking? Do you have a passion for baking or crafts? Think of one of your favorite activities, and write an essay giving several compelling reasons why your readers should give it a try.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Write a story describing what it's like to become a character in your favorite video game.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: While some people believe children do better when their mothers choose to stay at home full time, others challenge that there is no negative impact on children whose moms work outside the home. What do you think? State your position and develop it using logic, facts, and examples.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Which book would you rather read: A scary one that makes your hair stand on end or a funny book that keeps you laughing? Give several reasons for your choice.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Music is a powerful memory trigger. Describe a memorable experience that you associate with a certain song or piece of music.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Have you ever made a successful change that improved your physical, emotional, or spiritual health? Write an essay in which you persuade a friend to make a change for the better. Use convincing arguments, logic, and examples.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Through the creative power of words, you are free to journey through the realms of your own vivid and unique imagination. What place do you dream about? Paint a word picture of this imaginary land so it seems like a real place to the reader, describing the sky, ground, landforms, water features, and vegetation in colorful detail.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: More and more places are making it illegal for drivers to use cell phones while operating a motor vehicle. Do you agree, or do you think this law is too harsh? State your position and develop your essay using facts, sound reasoning, and examples from personal experience.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Communication has come a long way in the last 20 years! Write several paragraphs discussing some of the most significant changes.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Write a letter to yourself—a letter you'll read again when the school year is over. Write about where you are right now, for better or for worse. Then mention a few areas where you want to try harder and do better. Finally, include some things you'd simply like to do differently.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Many students complain about having to study history. After all, they claim, what value is there in understanding past events? Write an essay convincing your readers that learning about the past is necessary and important.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: You have finally earned your pilot's license, and today you are flying solo over a wild and rocky coastline. Vividly describe what you see and feel as you soar above this untamed landscape.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: In this electronic age, some people think books and paper will become obsolete one day. Do you agree? Defend your opinion.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Do you have an itch to travel? Imagine that you get to spend two weeks on the continent of your choosing. Write up an itinerary featuring the countries, cities, or terrain you would most like to explore. How long will you spend at each locale? What sights will you plan to see?

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: Have you ever been angry with a close friend? Write a reflective essay describing this experience.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Imagine that you have been asked to help raise money for your favorite charity. Write a letter to a grandparent or other adult persuading them to contribute to the fundraising campaign. Use your most compelling reasons and convincing arguments.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Imagine you're outdoors (at the park or beach, for example) when a storm blows in and catches you unprepared. Write about what it's like to run for cover. Use sensory language to describe not just the storm itself, but also your feelings as you slip, slide, and slosh your way to shelter.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: It's hard to drive along a highway or through a city and not encounter graffiti. While graffiti is most commonly viewed as vandalism, more and more people see it as "street art." What's your opinion? In an essay, use logic and reason to support your position.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Are fame and fortune worthwhile goals? Discuss how someone might achieve fame and fortune and how it can change their life—for better or for worse.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Tell about a time when you were involved in an accident. Reflect not only on the circumstances of the accident, but also on your emotions.

WriteShop® OCTOBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



NOVEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE What do you think is the best foreign language to learn, and why? Citing examples and reasons, write an essay convincing your readers to learn that particular language.

CREATIVE At the library, you find a photograph tucked inside a book. What story does this photo tell? Write a paragraph or two about it.

ARGUMENTATIVE Some people believe all children should receive participation trophies, no matter how poorly they or their team played, because it boosts confidence. Others argue that giving awards to every child promotes a sense of entitlement since, in real life, we don't get rewarded just for showing up. Should sports participation always be rewarded, or do participation trophies send young athletes the wrong message? Explain.

EXPOSITORY Imagine you are a fundraising coordinator for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization that grants wishes for children with life-threatening diseases. Brainstorm three goals or ideas for raising money, and write a paragraph describing one of these strategies.

REFLECTIVE Write an essay about your study habits, explaining when, where, and how you do your best school work.

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE You've decided to open a pet store, but you need to raise money so you can stock the store and launch this exciting venture. Write a letter to potential investors detailing your plans and persuading them that their money will be well spent.

CREATIVE What is your favorite board game? Write a review of this game for families who might consider buying it. Include parts of the game that impress you or that you particularly enjoy, and mention anything that disappointed you or was not quite as advertised.

ARGUMENTATIVE Sadly, it is now common to see broken homes and absent fathers. While some believe growing up without a dad negatively impacts children, others argue that it makes no difference to grow up without a male role model in the home. What is your opinion? Support your position using facts, reasons, and personal examples.

NOVEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 2

EXPOSITORY Just about every teen has been assigned certain chores to help out at home. Think about one of your chores, and explain why it is important.

REFLECTIVE Everyone could use a little help now and then. Write about a time you felt compassion for someone in their time of need and rose to action because of it.

PERSUASIVE With home invasions on the rise, more people are turning to alarm companies and surveillance cameras to deter crime. Write an essay convincing your readers why they need to install a home-security system.

CREATIVE Imagine a boy whose grandpa just gave him a huge box filled with junk and spare parts. Describe the rocket ship or other vehicle the boy makes from the items in the box, and write a story about an adventure he has in his vehicle.

ARGUMENTATIVE Many hold the opinion that, as a whole, professional sports figures are overpaid, while teachers, scientists, military personnel, and other public servants are not being paid their worth. Do you agree that professional athletes' salaries are too high? Explain your answer with logic and examples.

EXPOSITORY What invention would the world be better off without? Give several reasons to explain why.

REFLECTIVE Have you ever witnessed something you considered unbelievable—or even miraculous? What happened? How did it make you feel at the time? How do you feel about it now?

WEEK 3

PERSUASIVE Some people love living near the ocean, while others prefer the desert or the mountains. Which do you think is the best place to live? Write a convincing essay in which you persuade your readers to agree with your viewpoint.

CREATIVE On a TV game show, you have won a lifetime supply of duct tape! Describe in detail an outfit, costume, or item of clothing you could make from your unusual prize.

ARGUMENTATIVE Many believe Jesus' claims that he is, in fact, God. Skeptics regard him as a good moral man, teacher, or prophet who said a lot of deep things. What do you believe? Write an essay in which you support your position.

WEEK 4

NOVEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 4

EXPOSITORY The idea of eternal youth has captivated people for centuries. Today, with anti-aging products flooding the market, more people than ever seem anxious to turn back the clock. Do you believe modern society is obsessed with youth? Write an expository essay in which you use specific examples and illustrations to develop your points.

REFLECTIVE Nature has a powerful effect on the human soul. Have you stood in awe of a majestic snow-capped mountain, witnessed a glorious sunset, or experienced the peace of a quiet forest? Write about a time when you felt overwhelmed by the glory of nature.

PERSUASIVE

What do you think is the best foreign language to learn, and why? Citing examples and reasons, write an essay convincing your readers to learn that particular language.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

At the library, you find a photograph tucked inside a book. What story does this photo tell? Write a paragraph or two about it.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Some people believe all children should receive participation trophies, no matter how poorly they or their team played, because it boosts confidence. Others argue that giving awards to every child promotes a sense of entitlement since, in real life, we don't get rewarded just for showing up. Should sports participation always be rewarded, or do participation trophies send young athletes the wrong message? Explain.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Imagine you are a fundraising coordinator for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization that grants wishes for children with life-threatening diseases.

Brainstorm three goals or ideas for raising money, and write a paragraph describing one of these strategies.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Write an essay about your study habits, explaining when, where, and how you do your best school work.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

You've decided to open a pet store, but you need to raise money so you can stock the store and launch this exciting venture.

Write a letter to potential investors detailing your plans and persuading them that their money will be well spent.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

What is your favorite board game? Write a review of this game for families who might consider buying it. Include parts of the game that impress you or that you particularly enjoy, and mention anything that disappointed you or was not quite as advertised.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Sadly, it is now common to see broken homes and absent fathers. While some believe growing up without a dad negatively impacts children, others argue that it makes no difference to grow up without a male role model in the home. What is your opinion? Support your position using facts, reasons, and personal examples.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Just about every teen has been assigned certain chores to help out at home. Think about one of your chores, and explain why it is important.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Everyone could use a little help now and then. Write about a time you felt compassion for someone in their time of need and rose to action because of it.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

With home invasions on the rise, more people are turning to alarm companies and surveillance cameras to deter crime. Write an essay convincing your readers why they need to install a home-security system.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Imagine a boy whose grandpa just gave him a huge box filled with junk and spare parts. Describe the rocket ship or other vehicle the boy makes from the items in the box, and write a story about an adventure he has in his vehicle.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Many hold the opinion that, as a whole, professional sports figures are overpaid, while teachers, scientists, military personnel, and other public servants are not being paid their worth. Do you agree that professional athletes' salaries are too high? Explain your answer with logic and examples.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

What invention would the world be better off without? Give several reasons to explain why.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Have you ever witnessed something you considered unbelievable—or even miraculous? What happened? How did it make you feel at the time? How do you feel about it now?

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Some people love living near the ocean, while others prefer the desert or the mountains. Which do you think is the best place to live? Write a convincing essay in which you persuade your readers to agree with your viewpoint.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

On a TV game show, you have won a lifetime supply of duct tape! Describe in detail an outfit, costume, or item of clothing you could make from your unusual prize.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Many believe Jesus' claims that he is, in fact, God. Skeptics regard him as a good moral man, teacher, or prophet who said a lot of deep things. What do you believe? Write an essay in which you support your position.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

The idea of eternal youth has captivated people for centuries. Today, with anti-aging products flooding the market, more people than ever seem anxious to turn back the clock. Do you believe modern society is obsessed with youth? Write an expository essay in which you use specific examples and illustrations to develop your points.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Nature has a powerful effect on the human soul. Have you stood in awe of a majestic snow-capped mountain, witnessed a glorious sunset, or experienced the peace of a quiet forest? Write about a time when you felt overwhelmed by the glory of nature.

November

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: What do you think is the best foreign language to learn, and why? Citing examples and reasons, write an essay convincing your readers to learn that particular language.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: At the library, you find a photograph tucked inside a book. What story does this photo tell? Write a paragraph or two about it.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Some people believe all children should receive participation trophies, no matter how poorly they or their team played, because it boosts confidence. Others argue that giving awards to every child promotes a sense of entitlement since, in real life, we don't get rewarded just for showing up. Should sports participation always be rewarded, or do participation trophies send young athletes the wrong message? Explain.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Imagine you are a fundraising coordinator for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization that grants wishes for children with life-threatening diseases. Brainstorm three goals or ideas for raising money, and write a paragraph describing one of these strategies.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Write an essay about your study habits, explaining when, where, and how you do your best school work.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: You've decided to open a pet store, but you need to raise money so you can stock the store and launch this exciting venture. Write a letter to potential investors detailing your plans and persuading them that their money will be well spent.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: What is your favorite board game? Write a review of this game for families who might consider buying it. Include parts of the game that impress you or that you particularly enjoy, and mention anything that disappointed you or was not quite as advertised.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: Sadly, it is now common to see broken homes and absent fathers. While some believe growing up without a dad negatively impacts children, others argue that it makes no difference to grow up without a male role model in the home. What is your opinion? Support your position using facts, reasons, and personal examples.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Just about every teen has been assigned certain chores to help out at home. Think about one of your chores, and explain why it is important.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Everyone could use a little help now and then. Write about a time you felt compassion for someone in their time of need and rose to action because of it.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: With home invasions on the rise, more people are turning to alarm companies and surveillance cameras to deter crime. Write an essay convincing your readers why they need to install a home-security system.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Imagine a boy whose grandpa just gave him a huge box filled with junk and spare parts. Describe the rocket ship or other vehicle the boy makes from the items in the box, and write a story about an adventure he has in his vehicle.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Many hold the opinion that, as a whole, professional sports figures are overpaid, while teachers, scientists, military personnel, and other public servants are not being paid their worth. Do you agree that professional athletes' salaries are too high? Explain your answer with logic and examples.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: What invention would the world be better off without? Give several reasons to explain why.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: Have you ever witnessed something you considered unbelievable—or even miraculous? What happened? How did it make you feel at the time? How do you feel about it now?

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Some people love living near the ocean, while others prefer the desert or the mountains. Which do you think is the best place to live? Write a convincing essay in which you persuade your readers to agree with your viewpoint.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: On a TV game show, you have won a lifetime supply of duct tape! Describe in detail an outfit, costume, or item of clothing you could make from your unusual prize.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Many believe Jesus' claims that he is, in fact, God. Skeptics regard him as a good moral man, teacher, or prophet who said a lot of deep things. What do you believe? Write an essay in which you support your position.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: The idea of eternal youth has captivated people for centuries. Today, with anti-aging products flooding the market, more people than ever seem anxious to turn back the clock. Do you believe modern society is obsessed with youth? Write an expository essay in which you use specific examples and illustrations to develop your points.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Nature has a powerful effect on the human soul. Have you stood in awe of a majestic snow-capped mountain, witnessed a glorious sunset, or experienced the peace of a quiet forest? Write about a time when you felt overwhelmed by the glory of nature.

WriteShop® NOVEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



DECEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 1

PERSUASIVE While on vacation with your grandparents in Costa Rica, you see a brochure at the hotel offering a 2-for-1 package on either a ziplining adventure or a whitewater rafting day trip. Write a paragraph or two convincing your elderly grandpa to do one of these exciting activities with you.

CREATIVE Have you ever held a grudge against the brush that pulled your hair or the vacuum that sucked up your shoelaces? How did you feel when a pen leaked ink on your favorite shirt or the toaster burned yet another bagel? Think about a time when an inanimate object caused you distress, and write a letter to this object to express your disappointment.

ARGUMENTATIVE Some parents love to pretend Santa Claus is real. Others choose not to encourage belief in Santa because they don't want to tell a lie to their children. Do you think this is a lie? Do you think it's okay for parents to tell their children Santa is real? State your opinion. Then use personal experience, logic, and reasoning to support your position on the issue.

EXPOSITORY Think of a commercial that you love. Explain why it is so effective in marketing the product.

REFLECTIVE Farsighted and daring, Christopher Columbus changed both our history and the face of our globe. As a boy, Columbus felt an "irresistible inclination for the sea" and a "passion for geographical studies." Think about some of the unique opportunities, interests, and talents you have today. Imagine some of the ways these might prepare you for future greatness. Write about these possibilities!

WEEK 2

PERSUASIVE You just learned of a chance to spend three weeks next summer volunteering at a national park. What national park would you want to work at? What are your skills, interests, and talents that would make this a good fit for you? Write an essay convincing your parents that this is an opportunity you can't pass up!

CREATIVE Best friends often share their dreams for the future. If you could make one wish come true for a friend, what would it be? Describe how you'd plan this wonderful surprise.

ARGUMENTATIVE Do old buildings have value, or are they bygone relics that need to be replaced? Is preserving them beneficial enough for a community's culture and economy to warrant the expense, or would that money be better spent on new, modern structures? Why or why not?

DECEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 2

EXPOSITORY Think of a business in your local area that could use some improvements. Explain at least three things that are wrong about the business, what the negative consequences are, and what the owners should do to remedy the problems.

REFLECTIVE You have just discovered an ancient genie who will grant you three wishes. You may only ask for physical things, not intangible ideas such as “peace” or “happiness” or “fame.” What will you choose, and why?

PERSUASIVE Imagine that you have a friend who has no money in their bank account. Convince this friend that it’s important to create—and follow through with—a savings plan.

CREATIVE A magazine has announced a contest for the best original robot to help with household chores. Describe your entry and the ways it will make housekeeping easier.

WEEK 3

ARGUMENTATIVE Consider the pros and cons of being an only child and use good reasons and examples to explain whether or not you would willingly choose to be a parent to an only child.

EXPOSITORY Think about one form of technology you can’t imagine living without. Write an essay explaining why you’re so crazy about this technology, and tell what you would do in its place if it were taken away for a week.

REFLECTIVE *“Creative acts involve risk. To create in the presence of others without fear requires embracing vulnerability.” --Dr. Miriam Heller Stern* Tell about a time when you took a risk and shared something you created with others, such as a piece of art, music, or writing.

WEEK 4

PERSUASIVE The local community center is offering a 4-week self-defense class. Write an essay persuading your readers to take this free course. Use logic, reason, and your most convincing arguments.

CREATIVE The perfect souvenir can remind us of a wonderful vacation for years to come. Use sensory details to creatively describe the best souvenir you ever bought or received.

DECEMBER WRITING PROMPTS

for Teens

WEEK 4

ARGUMENTATIVE You may have heard about people who keep squirrel monkeys, mountain lions, wallabies, poisonous snakes, and other exotic animals as pets. Do you think it should be legal to own exotic pets? Explain your position.

EXPOSITORY Select any common stereotype and destroy it with factual evidence to the contrary.

REFLECTIVE Have you ever befriended someone just because it looked like they needed a friend? Has someone ever done this for you? Choose one scenario and describe your experience.

PERSUASIVE

While on vacation with your grandparents in Costa Rica, you see a brochure at the hotel offering a 2-for-1 package on either a ziplining adventure or a whitewater rafting day trip. Write a paragraph or two convincing your elderly grandpa to do one of these exciting activities with you.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Have you ever held a grudge against the brush that pulled your hair or the vacuum that sucked up your shoelaces? How did you feel when a pen leaked ink on your favorite shirt or the toaster burned yet another bagel? Think about a time when an inanimate object caused you distress, and write a letter to this object to express your disappointment.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Some parents love to pretend Santa Claus is real. Others choose not to encourage belief in Santa because they don't want to tell a lie to their children. Do you think this is a lie? Do you think it's okay for parents to tell their children Santa is real? State your opinion. Then use personal experience, logic, and reasoning to support your position on the issue.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Think of a commercial that you love. Explain why it is so effective in marketing the product.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Farsighted and daring, Christopher Columbus changed both our history and the face of our globe. As a boy, Columbus felt an "irresistible inclination for the sea" and a "passion for geographical studies." Think about some of the unique opportunities, interests, and talents you have today. Imagine some of the ways these might prepare you for future greatness. Write about these possibilities!

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

You just learned of a chance to spend three weeks next summer volunteering at a national park. What national park would you want to work at? What are your skills, interests, and talents that would make this a good fit for you? Write an essay convincing your parents that this is an opportunity you can't pass up!

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

Best friends often share their dreams for the future. If you could make one wish come true for a friend, what would it be? Describe how you'd plan this wonderful surprise.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Do old buildings have value, or are they bygone relics that need to be replaced? Is preserving them beneficial enough for a community's culture and economy to warrant the expense, or would that money be better spent on new, modern structures? Why or why not?

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Think of a business in your local area that could use some improvements. Explain at least three things that are wrong about the business, what the negative consequences are, and what the owners should do to remedy the problems.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

You have just discovered an ancient genie who will grant you three wishes. You may only ask for physical things, not intangible ideas such as “peace” or “happiness” or “fame.” What will you choose, and why?

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

Imagine that you have a friend who has no money in their bank account. Convince this friend that it’s important to create—and follow through with—a savings plan.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

A magazine has announced a contest for the best original robot to help with household chores. Describe your entry and the ways it will make housekeeping easier.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

Consider the pros and cons of being an only child and use good reasons and examples to explain whether or not you would willingly choose to be a parent to an only child.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Think about one form of technology you can’t imagine living without. Write an essay explaining why you’re so crazy about this technology, and tell what you would do in its place if it were taken away for a week.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

“Creative acts involve risk. To create in the presence of others without fear requires embracing vulnerability.” –Dr. Miriam Heller Stern

Tell about a time when you took a risk and shared something you created with others, such as a piece of art, music, or writing.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

PERSUASIVE

The local community center is offering a 4-week self-defense class. Write an essay persuading your readers to take this free course. Use logic, reason, and your most convincing arguments.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

CREATIVE

The perfect souvenir can remind us of a wonderful vacation for years to come. Use sensory details to creatively describe the best souvenir you ever bought or received.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

ARGUMENTATIVE

You may have heard about people who keep squirrel monkeys, mountain lions, wallabies, poisonous snakes, and other exotic animals as pets. Do you think it should be legal to own exotic pets? Explain your position.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

EXPOSITORY

Select any common stereotype and destroy it with factual evidence to the contrary.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

REFLECTIVE

Have you ever befriended someone just because it looked like they needed a friend? Has someone ever done this for you? Choose one scenario and describe your experience.

December

WriteShop® Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: While on vacation with your grandparents in Costa Rica, you see a brochure at the hotel offering a 2-for-1 package on either a ziplining adventure or a whitewater rafting day trip. Write a paragraph or two convincing your elderly grandpa to do one of these exciting activities with you.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Have you ever held a grudge against the brush that pulled your hair or the vacuum that sucked up your shoelaces? How did you feel when a pen leaked ink on your favorite shirt or the toaster burned yet another bagel? Think about a time when an inanimate object caused you distress, and write a letter to this object to express your disappointment.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Some parents love to pretend Santa Claus is real. Others choose not to encourage belief in Santa because they don't want to tell a lie to their children. Do you think this is a lie? Do you think it's okay for parents to tell their children Santa is real? State your opinion. Then use personal experience, logic, and reasoning to support your position on the issue.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Think of a commercial that you love. Explain why it is so effective in marketing the product.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Farsighted and daring, Christopher Columbus changed both our history and the face of our globe. As a boy, Columbus felt an "irresistible inclination for the sea" and a "passion for geographical studies." Think about some of the unique opportunities, interests, and talents you have today. Imagine some of the ways these might prepare you for future greatness. Write about these possibilities!

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: You just learned of a chance to spend three weeks next summer volunteering at a national park. What national park would you want to work at? What are your skills, interests, and talents that would make this a good fit for you? Write an essay convincing your parents that this is an opportunity you can't pass up!

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: Best friends often share their dreams for the future. If you could make one wish come true for a friend, what would it be? Describe how you'd plan this wonderful surprise.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





ARGUMENTATIVE: Do old buildings have value, or are they bygone relics that need to be replaced? Is preserving them beneficial enough for a community’s culture and economy to warrant the expense, or would that money be better spent on new, modern structures? Why or why not?

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Think of a business in your local area that could use some improvements. Explain at least three things that are wrong about the business, what the negative consequences are, and what the owners should do to remedy the problems.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: You have just discovered an ancient genie who will grant you three wishes. You may only ask for physical things, not intangible ideas such as “peace” or “happiness” or “fame.” What will you choose, and why?

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: Imagine that you have a friend who has no money in their bank account. Convince this friend that it’s important to create—and follow through with—a savings plan.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: A magazine has announced a contest for the best original robot to help with household chores. Describe your entry and the ways it will make housekeeping easier.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: Consider the pros and cons of being an only child and use good reasons and examples to explain whether or not you would willingly choose to be a parent to an only child.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Think about one form of technology you can’t imagine living without. Write an essay explaining why you’re so crazy about this technology, and tell what you would do in its place if it were taken away for a week.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens





REFLECTIVE: *“Creative acts involve risk. To create in the presence of others without fear requires embracing vulnerability.” –Dr. Miriam Heller Stern.* Tell about a time when you took a risk and shared something you created with others, such as a piece of art, music, or writing.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



PERSUASIVE: The local community center is offering a 4-week self-defense class. Write an essay persuading your readers to take this free course. Use logic, reason, and your most convincing arguments.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



CREATIVE: The perfect souvenir can remind us of a wonderful vacation for years to come. Use sensory details to creatively describe the best souvenir you ever bought or received.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



ARGUMENTATIVE: You may have heard about people who keep squirrel monkeys, mountain lions, wallabies, poisonous snakes, and other exotic animals as pets. Do you think it should be legal to own exotic pets? Explain your position.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



EXPOSITORY: Select any common stereotype and destroy it with factual evidence to the contrary.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens



REFLECTIVE: Have you ever befriended someone just because it looked like they needed a friend? Has someone ever done this for you? Choose one scenario and describe your experience.

WriteShop® DECEMBER
Monthly Writing Prompts - Teens

