

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.

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.

WEEK 2

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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?