

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.

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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?