

# 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.*

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### 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.

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**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?