

10th Grade WASL Prompts:

Expository Essay Prompts

- Life is full of momentous events that change the course of our futures. These events may occur because of a decision that someone makes or because of uncontrollable circumstances. Describe a momentous event in your life and explain how it affected your future in a multiple-paragraph short essay.
- Think of something that is important to you that you learned in school or outside of school. In several paragraphs, write a letter to your teacher explaining what you learned and why it is important to you.
- Write a comparison and contrast essay explaining the similarities and differences between two classes you are taking or have taken so that new students will be able to decide which class to choose. Since this is an assessment of your writing ability, be sure to refer to the scoring criteria provided to develop an appropriate letter to the editor.
- Today you can change places with anyone you would like to be. This person can be real or imaginary, from the past or the present. Write a letter to a teacher that explains why you would like to change places with this person.
- Over the years, humans have benefited from inventions (as simple as a zipper and as complex as a computer or space ship). Write an essay for your teacher in which you name an invention that has had an important impact on how people live, work, or play. Explain why it is an important invention.
- By the time you are a sophomore in high school you have been in many different classes. Think about a memorable class. Write a multiple-paragraph letter to a teacher explaining why that class was memorable.
- School is not the only place to learn. Write a multi-paragraph letter to a teacher in which you identify something you remember learning outside of school and explain why this has been important to you.
- You have been asked to choose one or two items that will show what life is like in your high school in 2004. These objects will then be placed in a time capsule. (*A time capsule is a container which holds objects. The capsule is usually buried in the ground or placed in a building's foundation and then opened some time in the future.*) Write a multiple-paragraph letter to your school board identifying one or two objects to be placed in your high school's time capsule and explain why you have selected them.

Persuasive Essay Prompts

- Your principal is considering inviting a singer or musical group to perform for students at your school to raise money for a local charity. If you could invite anyone, whom would you choose? In a multiple-paragraph letter, persuade your principal to invite the singer or group of your choice.
- Write a letter to the editor to convince readers to support your position on a current local, national, OR international issue in the news. Since this is an assessment of your writing ability, be sure to refer to the scoring criteria provided to develop an appropriate letter to the editor.
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- Many schools offer foreign exchange programs to their students so that they can travel abroad and learn about a different culture. Write a short multiple-paragraph essay persuading a review panel that you are a good candidate for the foreign exchange program
- Write an essay for a teacher to persuade him or her that either music Lyrics OR books OR movies should or should not be censored.
- Recently a citizen's group proposed a change to the rules for obtaining a driver's license. The group has proposed that high school students have at least a "B" average in order to get a driver's license. Take a position on this proposal. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper to convince voters to agree with your position.
- Many people have expressed concern about the starting time for high school. The school board has suggested that school begin two hours later and end two hours later. Take a position on this proposal and write a multiple-paragraph letter to the school board to persuade them to agree with your position.
- Some nutritionists think the snack offerings at your school are terrible. Because of this, parents are asking the principal to remove all soda pop and candy machines. Take a position on this proposal. Write a multiple-paragraph letter to your principal to persuade him or her to agree with your position.
- Many young people have strong opinions about whether or not their communities are desirable places for teens to live. Do you consider your community a desirable place for teens to live? Write a multiple-paragraph letter to parents of teens who live in another area persuading them to move to or avoid your community.