

**10th
Grade**

FCAT Writing Prompts

10th Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

- Situation:** Many high school students hold part-time jobs after school.

Directions: Think about the effects part-time jobs have on students. Do part-time jobs hinder or help a student's educational goals?

Prompt: Now write to convince your guidance counselor to accept your view of high school students holding part-time jobs.
- Situation:** Universities and colleges require that entering freshmen must have taken at least two years of a foreign language on the high school level before graduation.

Directions: Think about the advantages and disadvantages of taking two years of a foreign language in high school.

Prompt: Write an essay to convince a university or college whether or not two years of a foreign language be a requirement for high school.
- Situation:** Technology has become vital in our modern society. It acts as both a source for knowledge and for enjoyment.

Directions: Think about technology's role and connection with education. Does it help or hinder?

Prompt: Write to convince the school board to accept your view of technology and its role in your school.
- Situation:** Your school board members have been asked to consider banning music playing devices (i.e. MP3 layers, CD players) from schools due to distractions they cause in classrooms.

Directions: Think about the effects of listening to music playing devices in the classroom have on you and your friends.

Prompt: Now write to convince your school board members to accept your point of view on whether music playing devices should be banned from schools.
- Situation:** Your school has decided to grant your grade level one privilege that the other grades in your school do not have.

Directions: Think of one privilege that your class does not have that you would now like to have.

Prompt: Now write to convince the administrators of your school to grant this privilege to your class for the rest of the year.

10th Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

6. **Situation:** Many students feel that taking physical education in high school is not necessary, while others see great benefit in it.
- Directions:** Do you feel that physical education should be a graduation requirement?
- Prompt:** Now write to convince your legislators to accept your point of view.
7. **Situation:** Students are legally allowed to drop out of school after they reach the age of 16. The state is currently considering a bill which will raise this age to 18.
- Directions:** Think about the problems or benefits of raising this age to 18.
- Prompt:** Now write to convince your legislators to accept your viewpoint on the mandatory age for dropping out of school.
8. **Situation:** Your principal is thinking of rewarding students who pass the 10th grade FCAT on the first try.
- Directions:** Think of rewards that you believe would be in the realm of possibility and would be effective motivators so that more students would do their best on this test.
- Prompt:** Now, write to convince your Principal to accept your reward package.
9. **Situation:** State guidelines have re-outlined the high school math sequence. All students will soon be required to take geometry before graduation.
- Directions:** Think about the challenges of all students taking geometry.
- Prompt:** Now, write to convince your legislators to accept you point of view on whether geometry should be required before graduation.
10. **Situation:** Celebrities normally get paid many times the amount that fire-fighters, teachers and policemen earn.
- Directions:** Think about whether you believe that celebrity salaries should be lowered.
- Prompt:** Now write an essay to convince the public that your point of view is justified.

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11. **Situation:** Online dating services have become popular in recent years.
- Directions:** You have corresponded online with someone that you would now like to meet face-to-face. You realize that there may be safety issues involved.
- Prompt:** Now, write to convince your parents to allow this visit.
12. **Situation:** Many people believe that it is dangerous to talk on a phone while driving a car. The state legislators are considering making it against the law for people to use a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle.
- Directions:** Think about how you feel about people talking on a cell phone while driving a car.
- Prompt:** Now write to convince your state legislators to accept your view about whether or not to make it against the law to talk on a phone while driving.
13. **Situation:** At the present time, young Americans volunteer to enlist for military service. To maintain our present military operations, more people may be needed.
- Directions:** Do you agree or disagree with the opinion that all Americans, both men and women, should be required to perform two years of military service?
- Prompt:** Write an essay in which you persuade the reader to support your point of view. Support your position with specific reasons and examples.
14. **Situation:** A law has been passed that requires high school students to pass exit tests before they graduate from high school.
- Directions:** Consider carefully the advantages and disadvantages of passing required exit tests. Do you agree or disagree with making high-stakes exit tests, such as the FCAT Test, a requirement for high school graduation?
- Prompt:** Write an essay in which you persuade the reader to support your point of view. Support a position with specific reasons and examples.
15. **Situation:** Many celebrities-such as actors, musicians, models, or athletes-make a great deal of money. Some people think celebrities make more money than they deserve. Other people think celebrities' wealth is deserved because of the enjoyment they bring to the public.
- Directions:** Do you agree or disagree that celebrities make more money than they deserve?

Prompt: Now, write an essay in which you persuade the reader that your side of the issue is correct. Use facts and examples to support your argument.

16. Situation: Current research suggests that because teenagers have different sleep patterns, they would benefit from beginning the school day at a later time. Suppose your Board of Education has proposed that all high school schedules begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

Directions: Do you agree or disagree that this later schedule would be beneficial?

Prompt: Now write an essay in which you persuade the Board of Education to agree with your opinion. Support your position with reasons and examples.

17. Situation: Due to potential problems, many school systems have adopted a policy that bans cell phones and pagers on school grounds. However, some parents have provided these items out of concern for safety.

Directions: Do you agree or disagree that cell phones and pagers should be banned on school grounds?

Prompt: Now write an essay in which you convince the reader of your opinion. Support your position with specific reasons and examples.

18. Situation: A law has been passed changing the driver's license system to a graduated system. A young person can be issued a restricted learner's permit at age 15, an intermediate license at age 16 and a full license at age 17. Both the learner's permit and intermediate license limit the number of passengers allowed in a car and limit the hours the person can drive. The full license carries no restrictions.

Directions: Consider carefully the advantages and disadvantages of the graduated driver's license system. Do you agree or disagree with the graduated license system?

Prompt: Now, write an essay in which you persuade the reader to support your point of view. Support your position with specific reasons and examples.

19. Situation: A school board is considering keeping school in session all year. Instead of a long summer vacation, there will be many shorter breaks throughout the year.

Directions: Think about the effects of a twelve-month school year. Do you agree or disagree that schools should be in session all year?

Prompt: Now, write an essay in which you persuade the reader why this is or is not a good idea. Defend your position with specific reasons supported by several detailed examples.

20. Situation: In some countries, students are responsible for the basic daily cleaning of their school buildings. Fifteen minutes are set aside each day for all students to sweep, dust, and clean their classrooms and corridors.

Directions: Think about how you would feel if students were responsible for cleaning your school. Do you agree or disagree that American schools should adopt this policy?

Prompt: Now, write an essay in which you persuade the reader why this is or is not a good idea. Defend your position with specific reasons supported by several detailed examples.

21. Situation: Imagine that your school district has proposed saving money by eliminating extracurricular sports (football, basketball and baseball) from the high school program.

Directions: Think about the possible effects of cutting sports from the school program. Decide whether you are for or against this proposal.

Prompt: Now write an essay in which you persuade the reader why this is or is not a good idea. Defend your position with specific reasons supported by several detailed examples.

22. Situation: Many schools require all students to perform some type of community service such as working in nursing homes or hospitals.

Directions: Think about how you would feel if you were required to perform a community service.

Prompt: Now write an essay in which you persuade the reader that students should or should not be required to perform community service. Defend your position with several detailed reasons. Develop those reasons with supporting examples.

23. Situation: Since schools have seen a rise in gang violence, stealing, and discipline problems, many schools and school districts are considering requiring students to wear uniforms.

Directions: Think about how you would feel if you were required to wear a school uniform. Are there benefits or drawbacks to requiring students to wear school uniforms?

Prompt: Now write an essay in which you persuade the reader that school uniforms should or should not be required. Defend your position with specific reasons supported by several detailed examples.

24. Situation: A graduate from your high school has made a large financial gift to your school and has requested that the money be used to improve the educational experience for students. This donor has also asked that students be able to recommend how the money should be used.

Directions: Think about how this financial gift should be used at your school. It could be used to expand the use of technology, add new courses, or improve the library or media center. Choose one of these options or one of your own.

Prompt: Write a persuasive essay stating your recommendation. Provide supportive reasons to convince school officials why the money should be spent on your recommendation.

10th Grade Expository Essay Prompts

- Situation:** A friend of yours is considering moving to your town soon.

Directions: Think about the reasons why you like living in your town.

Prompt: Write to explain why you like living in your town.
- Situation:** Everyone has a possession that he/she cherishes.

Directions: Think about an object that is your prized possession and why it has special meaning to you.

Prompt: Write to explain why the object is your prized possession.
- Situation:** In recent years, many areas in the United States have experienced natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and tornadoes.

Directions: Think about ways young people should respond to help people in other communities that have experienced natural disasters.

Prompt: Write to explain ways young people may respond to help people in other communities affected by natural disasters.
- Situation:** Each year, many teenagers are killed or injured by driving under the influence of alcohol or by riding in a car driven by an alcohol-impaired teen.

Directions: Think about how these alcohol-related deaths or injuries can be reduced.

Prompt: Write to explain solutions to help stop other teens from risking their lives by driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Situation:** School violence has increased significantly over the past several years.

Directions: Think about reasons why school violence is on the rise.

Prompt: Write to explain why school violence has increased over the past few years.
- Situation:** Teenagers are often influenced by celebrities.

Directions: Think about a celebrity who positively affects teens.

Prompt: Write to explain how a celebrity can serve as a positive role model to teens.

10th Grade Expository Essay Prompts

7. **Situation:** Obesity is becoming a national health issue.
- Directions:** Think of reasons why Americans are gaining weight and becoming obese.
- Prompt:** Write to explain reasons why Americans are fighting the weight battle.
8. **Situation:** The cost of gasoline has risen drastically.
- Directions:** Think of alternatives to paying such outrageous prices for fuel.
- Prompt:** Write to explain what alternatives you would use to save money.
9. **Situation:** As the price of gasoline continues to rise, American consumers are paying high prices for a gallon of gas. At the same time, oil companies are making record profits.
- Directions:** Think about legal ways you as a consumer can send a message to the oil companies that American consumers are being hurt financially by paying too much for a gallon of gas.
- Prompt:** Write to explain legal ways consumers can take action to fight the rising cost of gas.
10. **Situation:** Everyone has had a memorable teacher.
- Directions:** Think about the positive influences a teacher has had on you and your educational goals.
- Prompt:** Write to explain your most memorable teacher.
11. **Situation:** Many people in this country care more about the way they look and having a lot of nice things, like cars and clothes, than about the problems of society. They do not pay enough attention to problems such as crime, poverty, or unemployment.
- Directions:** Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Prompt:** Write an essay in which you explain your opinion.
12. **Situation:** Your school has a program in which a tenth grader acts as a mentor for a ninth grader at the beginning of each school year. The mentor's job is to help the ninth grader have a successful experience at your school. The ninth grader you are working with is worried about being able to write well enough for high school classes.

Directions: As you plan your response, think about your own writing experiences. How would you describe "good" writing? What advice about writing has been helpful to you? What writing techniques do you use?

Prompt: Write a letter to your ninth grader explaining what kind of writing is expected in high school classes and what the student can do to be a successful writer in high school.