



**6th
Grade**



FCAT Writing

Prompts



6th Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

- Situation:** Many parents of sixth graders feel left out of their children's education. With today's technology web cameras and the Internet could help them feel more involved.

Directions: Think about the idea of having web cameras in each classroom so parents could go online at any time and see their child in class.

Prompt: Write to convince your principal to agree with your point of view.
- Situation:** News reports say children don't get enough exercise. The school board is considering requiring that all students take P.E. everyday.

Directions: Think about the advantages or disadvantages of having P.E. everyday and the reasons why.

Prompt: Write to convince the school board to agree or disagree with the opinion that all students should take P.E. everyday.
- Situation:** Some schools allow students to eat and drink in class.

Directions: Think about how being allowed to eat and drink in class might affect you and why.

Prompt: Write to convince the principal whether or not to allow eating and drinking in class.
- Situation:** The Florida Legislature is considering requiring all middle schools to adopt a year-round policy. This would mean that instead of having two months in a row off during the summer, students would have three-week chunks off at various times. All students would still have Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks.

Directions: Think about how this type of school calendar might affect you and your family and why.

Prompt: Write to convince the Florida Legislature to agree or disagree with the idea of a year-round school calendar.

6th Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

5. **Situation:** Many middle schools have a school dress policy but do not require specific uniforms. The school board is considering requiring all middle school students to have an actual uniform.
- Directions:** Think about how being required to wear a uniform to school will affect you and why.
- Prompt:** Write to convince the school board to agree or disagree with a required school uniform.
6. **Situation:** Many people say the authorities need to get tough on juvenile violence and try teen offenders in adult court.
- Directions:** Imagine that about someone your age has been found guilty of a crime of violence.
- Prompt:** Write to convince the judge to agree or disagree that someone your age be tried as an adult.
7. **Situation:** Most students today have a cell phone.
- Directions:** Think about how using a cell phone at school throughout the day might affect you and why.
- Prompt:** Write to convince your principal to agree with your opinion on using cell phones at school.
8. **Situation:** The mayor of your town has been asked to make a big decision. Should some land in your town be used to build a new shopping mall?
- Directions:** Think about how having a new shopping mall might affect your community and why.
- Prompt:** Write to convince the mayor to agree with your opinion on building the new shopping mall.

6th Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

9. **Situation:** Some people believe that animals should not be kept in zoos.
- Directions:** Think about the advantages and disadvantages of animals not being kept in zoos.
- Prompt:** Write to convince the President to agree with your opinion on animals not being kept in zoos.
10. **Situation:** Your best friend was asked to help a classmate cheat on an upcoming test.
- Directions:** Think about your friend's situation.
- Prompt:** Write to convince your friend not to help the classmate cheat.
11. **Situation:** You eat lunch in your school cafeteria almost every day. The food is good, but you wish your favorite food was on the menu.
- Directions:** Think of your favorite food that would be a great addition to the cafeteria's menu choices.
- Prompt:** Write a persuasive letter to the school's cafeteria telling them about your favorite food and convincing them to put it on the menu. Be sure to use specific reasons and examples to explain why this particular food belongs on the menu.
12. **Situation:** Your family has won a free three-day trip to any city in the United States.
- Directions:** Think of where you would like to visit in the United States.
- Prompt:** Write a letter to your family members explaining what city you think you should visit and why. Include specific reasons and examples to support your position.
13. **Situation:** Your hometown is on the short list of possible locations for the next World's Fair.
- Directions:** Think of reasons your hometown should host the World's Fair.
- Prompt:** Write an essay for the World's Fair officials persuading them to choose your hometown. List at least two or three reasons why your hometown should be picked to host the next World's Fair.

14. Situation: Imagine that instead of holding an election to decide who would be the next President of the United States, it was up to you to choose someone for the job. The only problem is you have to convince the person you choose to give up whatever it is he or she is currently doing and be president instead. Not everyone wants to be president.

Directions: Think of someone you know who would be a good president – maybe one of your parents, or your teacher, or some other person you respect a lot.

Prompt: Then write them a letter convincing them to accept the job of president of the United States.

15. Situation: People worry too much about _____.

Directions: Fill in the blank with any topic you like.

Prompt: Then, write an essay that supports your statement. Convince others to agree with you.

16. Situation: "The most important quality any person can have is a sense of humor."

Directions: Do you agree or disagree?

Prompt: Write a paper in which you take a clear stand, agreeing or disagreeing with this statement, and explain your position so the reader can understand fully why you came to feel the way you do.

6th Grade Expository Essay Prompts

- Situation:** We are learning all the time. Some of our learning takes place in school and some outside of school.

Directions: Think about something you have learned recently and how it has affected you.

Prompt: Write to explain what you have learned and how it has affected you.
- Situation:** Many middle schools have non-academic, or elective, classes that students can decide to take. Some of these classes might include art, P.E., and band.

Directions: Think about what elective classes you would most like to see offered to sixth graders and why.

Prompt: Now explain which elective classes you think should be offered at your school.
- Situation:** Most middle school students attend school for six and a half hours each day. However, middle schools across the county start and end at different times.

Directions: Think about what times you think would be best for your school to begin and end your six and a half hour day and why.

Prompt: Now explain what the best start and end times are for your school.
- Situation:** Even the brightest students sometimes need extra help in order to be successful.

Directions: Think about what teachers could do to help you be successful and explain why it would help you.

Prompt: Now explain what teachers could do to help students find success.
- Situation:** Most people have some things they want to accomplish or achieve in their lives.

Directions: Think about what you would like to accomplish or achieve in your life and why.

Prompt: Now explain what you would most like to achieve or accomplish in your life.

6th Grade Expository Essay Prompts

6. **Situation:** Most people can name some things they wish were different in their life.
Directions: Think about what you would change about your life if you could and why you would make this change.
Prompt: Now explain what you would change in your life.

7. **Situation:** Middle school is usually different from elementary school in several ways.
Directions: Think about how school is different now compared to when you attended elementary school.
Prompt: Now explain how middle school is different from elementary school.

8. **Situation:** Usually middle school students have to do some of their school work at home. In order to do homework, you need supplies.
Directions: Think about the supplies and other resources you need at home to do your homework.
Prompt: Now explain what materials or resources are most necessary for you to do your homework.

9. **Situation:** Even the smartest students do not spend all their time doing school work, since everyone enjoys spending their free time doing a favorite activity.
Directions: Think about how you like to spend your free time and why.
Prompt: Now explain what you enjoy doing in your free time.

10. **Situation:** Write an essay describing a family member or friend who is special or unforgettable.
Directions: Think of an unforgettable family member or friend.
Prompt: Now write explain why you think this person is different from other people. Use description and examples.

11. **Situation:** Imagine that your school newspaper has asked you to write an article about a musical performance. You can write about a school concert, your friend's

violin recital, or even a performance you've seen (and heard) on television or the Internet.

Directions: Think of a recent music concert or performance you have attended.

Prompt: Write a report describing the musical performance in detail. Use all five senses so that your readers imagine the performance for themselves.

12. Situation: How would life change if you woke up tomorrow morning and all the cars and trucks in the world had disappeared?

Directions: Think about the important role that cars and trucks play in our everyday lives.

Prompt: Write an essay describing how your life and your world would change if cars and trucks suddenly disappeared. Be sure to use specific details and examples to explain the changes this would cause.

13. Situation: As we grow up, we change in some ways. Yet part of us always stays the same.

Directions: Compare and contrast what you like as a younger student and how you are now.

Prompt: Now write to explain what you were like as a younger student and how you are now. Include two or three ways you are the same and two or three ways you are different.