

The background features several decorative elements: a large blue circle with a lighter blue ring and a darker blue center in the upper left; a smaller version of the same design in the middle right; and a large blue circle with a lighter blue ring and a darker blue center in the lower right. Two thin blue lines cross each other in the center of the page, forming an 'X' shape.

7th
Grade

FCAT Writing

Prompts

7th Grade Persuasive Essay Prompts

- 1. Situation:** In our school district, we have a mandatory twenty-five minute lunch period. This time frame includes walking to lunch, standing in line, making selections, paying, eating, cleaning, and returning to class.

Directions: Think about ways to improve this lunchroom situation.

Prompt: Write to persuade your principal to accept your ideas for change.
- 2. Situation:** The number of students having cell phones every day is increasing. Many schools are allowing cell phone possession but not permitting use during school hours.

Directions: Think about the advantages or disadvantages of cell phones use on your school campus.

Prompt: Convince your principal to agree with your position on cell phone use during school hours.
- 3. Situation:** Traditionally, gum chewing has been forbidden in school. Some administrators are considering changing their opinion.

Directions: Think about your opinion on chewing gum while in school.

Prompt: Write to convince your administrator to accept your opinion on chewing gum in school.
- 4. Situation:** Imagine that your cafeteria manager is considering removing all fast-food items (for example, hamburgers, pizza, and French fries) from your cafeteria menu.

Directions: Think of the benefits and/or disadvantages of removing all fast-food items.

Prompt: Now write your cafeteria manager a letter persuading him or her to accept your views on the removal of all fast foods from the cafeteria. Be sure to include specific reasons and details in support of your position.
- 5. Situation:** Recently there has been a lot of discussion about violence in the music, film, and television that children enjoy. Some experts argue that the violence youths hear and see through TV, film, and music leads them to behave in violent ways.

Directions: Think about how you feel about violence in music, film, and television and its effect on youths.

- Prompt: Now write to convince others on whether violence in music, films, and television has a negative or positive affect on youths.
8. Situation: Your local newspaper is sponsoring a contest titled “Making a Difference.” Students have been encouraged to write an essay on how they can “make a difference” by improving their school or local community. The winning essay will be published in the education section of the newspaper.
- Directions: Think of ideas on how to improve your school or community.
- Prompt: Write an essay for the newspaper editor in which you propose a solution to make your school or community a better place.
7. Situation: Many students in Florida would like to see snow during the winter.
- Directions: Think about how much fun you and your family could have going up north and seeing snow.
- Prompt: Now write to persuade your parents to take your family to see snow next winter.
8. Situation: The Florida Legislature is discussing the possibility of adding an hour to the school day to improve students' learning.
- Directions: Think about the negative and positive effects of adding an hour to the school day.
- Prompt: Now write to persuade the adult reader of your paper to agree with your view on whether or not to add an hour to the school day.
9. Situation: Your local animal shelter is looking for responsible volunteers to work with stray dogs, to work with stray cats, or to work in the shelter’s office. In order to help them choose the best volunteers for each job, the shelter staff has asked each applicant to write an essay offering specific reasons and examples why he or she should be chosen for the job.
- Directions: Think about the characteristics a responsible volunteer at an animal shelter would need. Then, think about those characteristics in which you demonstrate if you volunteered at a local animal shelter.
- Prompt: Now write to convince the Director of your local animal shelter that you would be a responsible volunteer and should be chosen for the job.
10. Situation: Your school principal has proposed a “Meet our Community” Day, where local community persons would be invited to address your classmates.

Directions: Think of a guest speaker that you would like to invite to your school. For example, it may be a famous author, politician, or sports star.

Prompt: Write an essay on why you think that this person should be invited to talk. Give several reasons and convincing examples.

11. Situation: Music is one of the things that most kids can decide about by themselves. They can decide what kind of music they like and how they want to listen to it. Some CDs, however, are rated, and not everyone is allowed to buy them. Some people think that kids under a certain age should not be allowed to listen to certain types of music and lyrics.

Directions: What do you think? Do you think you should be allowed to listen to and buy any CD you want, or should there be restrictions?

Prompt: Write a letter for your school newspaper's editorial section stating whether music CDs should be rated. Develop your argument as strongly as possible. Use examples to support your points.

12. Situation: Your school is in the process of choosing a book to use in its new "One School, One Book" reading program. The book that is chosen will be read and discussed by everyone who attends or works at the school.

Directions: Think of a book that you enjoyed reading and why you liked reading it.

Prompt: Write an essay nominating your book choice. Without just describing the book's content or plot, offer reasons why this book is a good choice for your school.

13. Situation: Some people are concerned that students are not as healthy as they should be. They think that regular exercise and information about good health habits are essential parts of an education. Therefore, some people want to require a daily physical education and health class for all students.

Directions: Think of the benefits and/or disadvantages of requiring a daily PE and health class for all students.

Prompt: Write a persuasive essay stating whether or not you agree that all students should be required to take a daily physical education and health class. Give reasons why you think as you do.

14. Situation: Your principal wants to reward your class by taking students on a field trip to some place in Florida. Think about what place you would choose for the students in your class to visit.

Directions: Think of a place in Florida and its possible impact on your fellow students.

- Prompt: Write a letter to your principal explaining why the place you have chosen is the best place to visit. Give convincing reasons that support your opinion and address the concerns of those who would argue against your position. Explain your reasons with specific details.
15. Situation: Imagine that you have decided to start an after-school activity club and want to recruit new members.
- Directions: Think about the club you would like to start at your school.
- Prompt: Then write a letter to persuade students your age to join the club. Be sure to include specific reasons and details that would make students want to join your club.
16. Situation: A school committee is creating a mural (wall painting) that will feature students' favorite book or movie characters. Only a limited number of characters can be included. Each student has been asked to nominate a character from a book or a movie.
- Directions: Select a character to be featured as part of the mural and write a letter to the school committee.
- Prompt: Now justify your selection in writing to your school committee on why your choice of book or movie's character should be featured in a mural at your school.
17. Situation: At the end of every school year, your principal chooses one way the school could be improved. Your principal bases the choice on recommendations from students. This year students have proposed the following improvements: an outdoor lunch area, new sports equipment for the gym, laptop computers for student checkout.
- Directions: Think about which proposed improvement would most benefit your school.
- Prompt: Write a letter to your principal justifying which improvement would be best for your school.
18. Situation: Your State Senator is holding an essay contest for citizens to propose a new national holiday.
- Directions: You anticipate that there might be people who don't agree with your idea, so defend your reasoning by explaining the meaning and background of the event/person and why a national holiday is justified. You could describe how the holiday should be observed or celebrated.
- Prompt: Now write an essay proposing a new national holiday.

19. Situation: Many famous people, both real and fictional, have been honored by having their faces on postage stamps.

Directions: Choose a real or fictional person who you feel deserves this honor.

Prompt: Write an essay that would persuade others your choice of a person should be honored on a postage stamp.

20. Situation: Your principal is considering banning the eating of snacks in the classroom.

Directions: Think whether you agree or disagree with banning classroom snacking.

Prompt: Now persuade the principal whether students should be allowed to eat snacks in the classroom.

7th Grade Expository Essay Prompts

- Situation:** Bullying is a growing problem in schools today, whether it is spreading rumors, taking someone else's belongings, or physical abuse.

Directions: Put yourself in the place of the person being bullied.

Prompt: Now write to explain how being bullied is affecting your life.
- Situation:** Going from elementary school to junior high/middle school is a big change. Sometimes these changes can be difficult. You have a younger friend who is getting ready to go to junior high/middle school and could use your help.

Directions: Think of several suggestions to help the new student deal with common situations at your school.

Prompt: Now write to explain to your friend several things that he or she can do to get ready for the change. Give examples from your own experiences to support your suggestions.
- Situation:** Sometimes other people inspire us to act or think a certain way. Write an essay about a time when you were inspired or motivated by something someone did or said.

Directions: What were the words or actions that motivated you? What effect did these words or actions have on you? Were the effects positive or negative?

Prompt: Now write to explain about at time when you were inspired or motivated by something someone did or said. Use specific details to illustrate your inspiration.
- Situation:** Respect. Singers sing about it. Some people inspire it.

Directions: Think about someone you respect and admire. The person can be someone you know, or someone you have read or heard about.

Prompt: In a well-developed composition, describe the person you have selected. Explain, in detail, at least two or three reasons why you respect this person.
- Situation:** All of us face challenges in life. One challenge might be making new friends. Another challenge might be learning how to play a sport or a musical instrument.

Directions: What lesson did you or someone you know learn?

- Prompt: In a well-developed composition, describe a challenge that you or someone you know has faced.
6. Situation: Tardies to class are disrupting instruction, leaving unfinished class work to be completed at home. Although rules and consequences were set at the beginning of the year, students are still arriving late.
- Directions: Brainstorm on how to reduce tardies in your class.
- Prompt: Write an essay for your teacher in which you explain a solution to the problem of tardies to class.
7. Situation: Inventions are all around us.
- Directions: Think of an invention that has been especially helpful or harmful to people.
- Prompt: Now write to explain an invention that has been helpful or harmful.
8. Situation: Your teacher is considering taking you class on an educational field trip.
- Directions: Think about a place he or she would like to go on a field trip.
- Prompt: Now explain why you would like to go on a field trip to this place.
9. Situation: Imagine that one of your friends never wants to try anything new. Whether it is a question of what to eat, what to wear, what to do, or what to watch, your friend always chooses what is familiar – “the same old thing.”
- Directions: Think of a friend that never wants to try anything new and what new something they could try.
- Prompt: Write a letter to your friend convincing him or her to try something new. Be sure to describe what your friend should try and explain why your friend would like it.
10. Situation: Many young people would like to visit someplace new.
- Directions: If you could visit any place in the world, where would you like to go? Why would you choose that place? Why would you want to go there?
- Prompt: Now explain in an essay where you would go and why. Support your ideas with examples and details.
11. Situation: Everyone enjoys receiving a gift.

Directions: What is the best gift you ever received? Why was it so special?

Prompt: Now explain in an essay what your favorite gift was and why it was so special. Support your reasons with examples and details.

12. Situation All young people have friends that they enjoy. Who is your best friend?

Directions: Before you write, think about your best friend. What qualities does this friend have, and why are these important?

Prompt: Now write an essay telling who your best friend is and explaining why. Support your reasons with examples and details.

13. Situation: School is a big part of a young person's life. Different students enjoy different aspects of school: sports, classes, friends, activities, etc.

Directions: What do you like most about school and why?

Prompt: Now explain in an essay what you like about school and why you like it. Support your ideas with examples and details.

14. Situation: If you had to choose one season of the year as your favorite, which one would you choose?

Directions: Before you begin to write, think about the season you have chosen and why it is your favorite. You might be thinking about the weather, certain activities in this season, or both.

Prompt: Now write an essay in which you explain why this one season of the year is your favorite. Support your ideas with examples and details.

13. Situation: If you could choose to be any animal for forty-eight hours, what would you be?

Directions: Before you begin writing, think about what kind of animal you would like to be - a wild animal, farm animal, or a household pet.

Prompt: Now explain in an essay why you chose this animal. Support your ideas with examples and details.

14. Situation: Everyone has one item that is important to him or her.

Directions: Before you begin writing, think about one item that is important to you and why. It could be something you found, made, or had given to you.

Prompt: Now explain in an essay why this one item is important to you. Support your ideas with examples and details.