



FCAT Writing Mode Matters

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What is the purpose of a prompt?

The prompt should

- present a topic in a format that serves to encourage, stimulate, and evoke a written response;
- appeal to the greatest number of students possible; and
- present the intended purpose for writing (mode).



Grades 4, 8, and 10 Expository Writing

The unmistakable purpose of this type of writing is to inform, clarify, explain, define, or instruct.

- Goal – carefully crafted presentation of facts, examples, or definitions that create a clear, central focus and enhance the reader's understanding; although objective (not dependent on emotion), often lively, engaging, and reflective of writer's commitment to the topic

Expository Prompt Specifications



- The prompt should tell the student the subject (topic) and the purpose for writing.
- Cue terms to use in expository prompts
 - *why, how, or what*

Grades 8 and 10 Persuasive Writing

The unmistakable purpose of this type of writing is to convince the reader that a point of view is valid and/or that the reader should take a specific action.



- Goal – clearly stated topic, issue, or opinion with elaboration that indicates the writer's understanding and conviction; writer may refute counterarguments to clarify the position

Persuasive Prompt Specifications

- The prompt should tell the student the subject (topic), audience, and the purpose for writing.
- Cue terms in persuasive prompts – *convince*, *persuade*, and *why*
- Avoid using how - (tends to elicit exposition or narration)
- Persuasive prompts should **avoid** writing to an audience of friends/peers (tends to elicit extremely informal writing, such as text messages and abbreviated language)