

College Prep Level Grades 11 & 12
Sample Argument/Opinion Non-Stimulus Prompt
Eliminating Art Programs

Due to an increased emphasis on academic courses and decreased funding, the schools in your area are proposing eliminating such programs as music, drama, and art. In a letter to the school board, take a position either agreeing or disagreeing with this policy. Give specific reasons for your position, supporting them with relevant facts and convincing examples.

Prewriting Suggestions

1. Think about both sides of this issue.
2. Decide which side of this issue you will take.
3. Think about the impact of your decision on this issue.
4. Think about personal experiences that are relevant to the side you take.

Editing Suggestions

- Have I organized my ideas in a logical way in order to clearly communicate my opinion?
- Have I illustrated my points with clear examples?
- Do all my paragraphs relate to this topic?
- Are my ideas well organized? Do I have an introduction and a conclusion?
- Are my sentences clear and complete?
- Have I used transition words or phrases, when needed, that clearly show how my ideas are connected?
- Have I chosen the best words to express my ideas?
- Are my spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation correct?

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Sample Informative Non-Stimulus Prompt
Success or Failure

The late American author Truman Capote once remarked, “Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor.” Explain what you think Capote might have meant by this. How does this statement apply to your own life? Explain, using interesting details, description, and reflection to support your view.

Prewriting Suggestions

1. Think about what this quotation means.
2. Think about examples in your life that have reference to this quote.
3. Think about what failure and success means in one’s life.
4. How might this quotation be important in your later life?

Editing Suggestions

- Have I clearly explained the application of Truman Capote’s quotation in my life?
- Have I given enough details and examples to support my ideas?
- Do all my paragraphs relate to this topic?
- Are my ideas well organized?
- Do I have an introduction and a conclusion?
- Are my sentences clear and complete?
- Have I used transition words or phrases, when needed, that clearly show how my ideas are connected?
- Have I chosen the best words to express my ideas?
- Are my spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation correct?

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Sample Narrative Non-Stimulus Prompt
Coming to a New Country

Write a narrative from the point of view of an exchange student coming to a new country, city, and school. Include in the narrative your thoughts and reactions to what you observe as a person from another country. Feel free to offer commentary about differences, defining traits, and/or similarities between your home and what you are experiencing in your new country.

Prewriting Suggestions

1. Think about the country from which you have come.
2. Does language become an obstacle in your new country, city, and school?
3. Think about your feelings in this new environment.
4. Are there things you will miss?

Editing Suggestions

- Have I engaged the reader with descriptive language to allow them to experience my new country, city, and school?
- Did I include my feelings about my new living environment?
- Do all of my paragraphs relate to this topic?
- Does my story have a beginning, middle, and a satisfying end?
- Are my ideas well organized?
- Are my sentences clear and complete?
- Have I used transition words or phrases, when needed, that clearly show how my ideas are connected?
- Have I chosen the best words to express my ideas?
- Are my spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation correct?