

Elementary Level Grades 3 & 4  
Sample Argument/Opinion Non-Stimulus Prompt  
Cell Phones for Kids

Cell phones have become an important part of life today. How old should kids be before they own cell phones? Is there a right age? Some people think cell phones are not a good idea for kids. Others think cell phones are a good idea for kids. Write what you think about kids and cell phones. What is the right age to own a cell phone? Should there be different rules for kids with cell phones than there are for adults or older kids? Make sure you give reasons for your opinion.

#### Prewriting Suggestions

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1. Is there a right age for kids to have cell phones?
2. Think of reasons why students should be allowed to own a cell phone.
3. Are there reasons why students should not own a cell phone?
4. Think of a situation where a cell phone might be necessary for a kid.

#### Editing Suggestions

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- Have I clearly explained whether I agree or disagree and why?
- Have I included enough supporting details to convince the reader of my views?
- Is my essay well organized?
- Do all my ideas make sense to the reader?
- Will my reader be able to follow my thinking and reasoning?
- Are my sentences clear and complete?
- Have I chosen the best words to express my ideas?
- Are my spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation correct?

Elementary Level Grades 3 & 4  
Sample Informative Non-Stimulus Prompt  
Fun Activity

Describe something that you like to do in your free time. Explain what about this activity makes it fun. Give examples of times you had fun with this activity and why it was so much fun.

### Prewriting Suggestions

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1. Think about a time when you had free time and able to choose whatever you wanted to do.
2. Was this a weekend day?
3. Is this activity something you like to do by yourself?
4. Is this activity something you like to do outdoors/indoors?

### Editing Suggestions

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- Have I clearly described/explained a favorite activity?
- Have I organized my thoughts in an order that clearly communicates what I mean to say?
- Did I remember to write an introduction and conclusion?
- Have I included enough details or examples to make my ideas clear?
- Do all of my paragraphs relate to this topic?
- Have I included enough supporting details?
- Is my essay well organized?
- Have I used transition words or phrases, when needed, that clearly show how my ideas are connected?
- Do all my ideas make sense to the reader?
- Are my sentences clear and complete?
- Have I chosen the best words to express my ideas?
- Are my spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation correct?

Elementary Level Grades 3 & 4  
Sample Narrative Non-Stimulus Prompt  
A Space Ship Lands

You are outside one night looking at the sky. A very bright star moves toward you. As you watch, you realize that the star is really a spaceship! Write a story about what happens next. Use dialogue to make your story more interesting.

### Prewriting Suggestions

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| 1. Think about the senses that this night scene suggests. | 4. Do you hear any sounds coming from the spaceship? |
| 2. How close are you to the spaceship?                    | 5. Will your adventure be exciting?                  |
| 3. What does the spaceship look like?                     | 6. Think about how you will end your adventure.      |

### Editing Suggestions

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| — Have I clearly described what the spaceship looks like?            | — Does my story make sense from beginning to end?                                      |
| — Have I also clearly explained the setting of my story?             | — Will my reader be able to follow the story line and understand when events happened? |
| — Have I included enough interesting details to make my story clear? | — Are my sentences clear and complete?   |
| — Does all of my paper tell a story?                                 | — Have I chosen the best words to express my ideas?                                    |
| — Is my story well organized?  | — Are my spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation correct?                   |