

Middle Level Grades 7 & 8

Sample Argument/Opinion Non-Stimulus Prompt Best Method of Communication?

There are more ways to communicate information than ever before - by telephone, text messaging, e-mail, social networking forums, letter writing, and face-to-face conversation. Some people prefer one method of communication over others, and some think the method of communication should depend on the situation. Write an essay in which you argue for a method of communication, and state why you believe it is the best way to communicate.

Prewriting Suggestions

1. Think about your opinion carefully.
2. In your introduction, be sure to state which form of communication you support.
3. While arguing against the other side is important, it is only one part of your job.
4. You need to convince readers that the form of communication that you favor is the right one.
5. Support the points in favor of your argument with clear and specific examples that will convince the reader that your position is logical and correct.
6. Think about the details that are important to include for a well-developed argument essay.

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

What Makes a Good School?

As a student, you have had many experiences in schools and probably have some opinions about what a good school would be like. You might consider such things as school campus, type of schedule, workload, teachers, athletics, etc. Write a well-developed essay explaining what makes a good school, using facts as well as examples of your own experience and those of people you know.

Prewriting Suggestions

1. Think about the school you attend.
2. What attributes of your school make you the most proud?
3. Are there features about your school you would consider to make it even better?
4. Think about how your school makes your community a great place to live.

Editing Suggestions

- Have I clearly explained what makes a good school?
- 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

A Different Kind of Gift

Gifts and letters are often used as expressions of love and appreciation. However, there are many other ways to express these. Write about a time when love, appreciation, gratitude or some similar emotion was expressed to or by you in a way other than in writing or as a gift. Make sure your story includes the reason for the expression, the emotions involved, and the reaction of the recipient.

Prewriting Suggestions

1. Think about how old you were when this expression of appreciation took place.
2. Think about how you felt.
3. This expression could be something you gave or something you received.
4. Think about sensory words and phrases that will give the reader a complete picture of your experience.

Editing Suggestions

- Have I included enough descriptive language to make my ideas clear?
- Do all of my paragraphs relate to this topic?
- Does my story have a beginning, a 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?