

Secondary Level Grades 9 & 10
Sample Argument/Opinion Non-Stimulus Prompt
Highways vs. Homes

Suppose the government is building a new highway through your community. The highway will provide quick and easy access to a nearby major city. Residents of some neighborhoods are being forced to sell their homes to the government so that they can be demolished for the new road. Are you for or against this policy? Write a letter to the editor of your local paper, stating your position, using argumentative techniques and supporting your position with relevant facts and examples.

Prewriting Suggestions

1. Think about the issues on both sides of the argument.
2. Decide whether you support the government building the new highway.
3. Decide whether you support the homeowners, who will lose their homes if the highway is built.
4. Think about the facts that support the side you are on.

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?

Secondary Level Grades 9 & 10
Sample Informative Non-Stimulus Prompt
Your Ideal Career

Most of us try to imagine what we'll be doing when we finally finish school. For example, most of us think about what job we'll have. What kind of career would you like to have when you finish school? Think of all the things you know or imagine about that career. Explain why it is the best career for you and elaborate on your reasons with facts, details, and examples.

Prewriting Suggestions

1. Think about what you have always “wanted to do” when you grow up.
2. Does your ideal career mean travel?
3. Think about the education you might need for this career.
4. Think about why you have chosen this career.

Editing Suggestions

- Have I clearly explained and described this ideal career?
- 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
My Most Memorable Day

Write a narrative describing and detailing the events of your most memorable day yet. Include descriptive details of the setting, characters, and action. Include your own thoughts, reactions, and feelings throughout.

Prewriting Suggestions

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| 1. Think about how old you were when this memorable day took place. | 3. Did the memorable day make a difference in your life? |
| 2. Were there obstacles that occurred during this day? | 4. Did you learn something from this day? |

Editing Suggestions

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| — Have I included enough descriptive language to make my ideas clear? | — Are my sentences clear and complete? |
| — Did I include my feelings about my most memorable day? | — Have I used transition words or phrases, when needed, that clearly show how my ideas are connected? |
| — Do all of my paragraphs relate to this topic? | — Have I chosen the best words to express my ideas? |
| — Does my story have a beginning, middle, and a satisfying end? | — Are my spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation correct? |
| — Are my ideas well organized? | |