

MCPS Middle School English Writing SOL

Prompts for English 8

Exposition:

- 1) People often credit their successes to having good attitudes. Explain the benefits of having a good attitude, even during a difficult time. Provide examples from your own experience or from having witnessed this in others.
- 2) Think about how daily life, from reading to playing games to communicating with others, has changed over the past hundred years because of technology. Using specific details and examples, explain how these advancements in technology have changed daily life.
- 3) You have been asked to share a lesson with elementary school students. Using specific details and examples, explain the lesson and why it would be important.
- 4) Some people enjoy public speaking while others are frightened by it. Using specific details and examples, explain how you feel about public speaking.
- 5) Competition is a constant presence in today's schools, where students not only compete with one another in the classroom but also in sports and in various extracurricular activities. Explain how competition can improve life or make it more difficult for students. Use specific details and examples in your response.
- 6) Identify a challenge facing students, and use specific details and examples to explain ways to overcome that challenge.
- 7) Students can often learn how to budget their time in order to complete important tasks and still have time for themselves. Explain how learning to budget time is an important skill for students. Use specific details and examples in your response.

Persuasion:

- 8) Many teachers assign group projects. Sometimes, however, an uncooperative member can affect the entire group. Argue for or against the use of group projects using specific details and examples.
- 9) What improvement would make your community better? Use specific details and examples to convince the mayor of your community to accept your idea for improving where you live.
- 10) Many professional athletes and entertainers earn large sums of money. Do you agree or disagree with these individuals making high salaries? Use specific details and examples to convince others to support your position.

11) The school board plans to add one and a half hours to the school each day. Do you agree or disagree with extending the school day? Use specific details and examples to convince the school board to accept your position.

12) Your principal has decided that all students must participate in at least one extracurricular activity. For example, students should participate in sports, work on the yearbook, or serve on the student council. Do you agree or disagree with this decision? Use specific details and examples to convince others to support your position.

13) The Roman philosopher Cicero wrote, "Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself." However, parents, friends, and teachers often offer advice. Should people listen to their own advice or to the advice of others? Use specific details and examples to support your response.

14) American jazz legend Duke Ellington said, "A problem is a chance for you to do your best." Explain the meaning of this statement and whether you agree or disagree with it. Use specific details and examples in your response.

15) Scientist Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Include specific details and examples to convince others to support your position.

16) Many schools have partnerships with local companies and organizations that allow students to explore certain professions. Write a letter to the manager of a local workplace that performs the type of work you would like to pursue. Convince the employer to allow you to visit. Include details about why you chose that workplace and the specific job.