

Essay Topics Available In CriterionSM

Elementary School – (Available with 4-point and 6-point rubrics, unless otherwise noted.)

Note: Prompts listed beneath the heavy black line were added in v4.1.

4 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Favorite TV Show	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Choose a Pet	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Outside in the Rain	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Interesting Dream	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Making Friends	Process	30 minutes
	Prepare a Meal	Process	30 minutes
	School Subjects	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	Home and Away	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	Strange Water Glass	Narrative	30 minutes
	Talking Frog	Narrative	30 minutes
	Favorite Object	Informative (6-point rubric)	25 minutes
	Castle	Narrative (6-point rubric)	25 minutes
	Invisible Friend	Persuasive (6-point rubric)	25 minutes
	Instructions for Sub	Process	30 minutes
	Non-School Clothes	Descriptive	30 minutes
	That Smells Great!	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Pet Dragon	Narrative	30 minutes
	Lost Time	Narrative	30 minutes
	Dog Park	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Party Plans	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Ways to Play	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	Getting Ready	Process	30 minutes
	Let's Play	Process	30 minutes
5 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Chores	Persuasive	30 minutes
	School Lunch Menu	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Cousin	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Feeling Happy	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Make a Change	Cause and Effect	30 minutes
	No Rules	Cause and Effect	30 minutes
	Earn Money	Process	30 minutes
	Best Friends	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	Be a Detective	Narrative	30 minutes
	Be a Super Hero	Narrative	30 minutes
	Birthday Bash	Process	30 minutes
	Special Treat	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Favorite Animal	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Grocery Town	Narrative	30 minutes
	Dream Blending	Narrative	30 minutes
	Foods for Health	Cause and Effect	30 minutes
	New Subject to Study	Persuasive	30 minutes
	The Field Trip	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Monday and Friday	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	Library	Process	30 minutes

Middle School – (Available with 4-point and 6-point rubrics, unless otherwise noted.)

Note: Prompts listed beneath the heavy black line were added in v4.1.

6 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	School in Summer	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Special Person	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Rain Forest	Cause and Effect	30 minutes
	First Day of School	Process	30 minutes
	Younger Student	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	Finish the Story	Narrative	30 minutes
	Perfect Sandwich	Process	30 minutes
	Person to Remember	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Beautiful Place	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Baby Elephant	Narrative	30 minutes
	Desert Island	Narrative	30 minutes
	Lesson Learned	Narrative	30 minutes
	Movie Party	Persuasive	30 minutes
	World's Fair	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Books vs. Movies	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	Trashbot	Process	30 minutes
7 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Guest Speaker	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Something Beautiful	Descriptive	30 minutes
	TV Advertisement	Cause and Effect	30 minutes
	Changing Schools	Process	30 minutes
	About You	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	You Are the Teacher	Narrative	30 minutes
	Tying a Shoe	Process	30 minutes
	Favorite Exercise	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Hobby Recommendation	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Your Town	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Favorite Season	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Opposite Salaries	Cause and Effect	30 minutes
	Different Country	Narrative	30 minutes
	Trading Places	Narrative	30 minutes
	Weirdest Day Ever!	Narrative	30 minutes
	Help for a New Student	Process	30 minutes
8 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Students Working	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Favorite Music	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Technology	Cause and Effect	30 minutes
	Conserving Resources	Process	30 minutes
	TV Characters	Compare and Contrast	30 minutes
	Space Adventure	Narrative	30 minutes
	Space Visitor	Narrative (6-point rubric)	25 minutes
	Designing a TV Show	Informative (6-point rubric)	25 minutes
	Lengthening the School Year	Persuasive (6-point rubric)	25 minutes

Middle School – (Available with 4-point and 6-point rubrics, unless otherwise noted.)

8 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Pioneer on Mars	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Pen Pal	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Graduate	Expository	30 minutes
	Teenager	Expository	30 minutes
	No School	Expository	30 minutes
	River Swimming	Narrative	30 minutes
	Impostor	Narrative	30 minutes
	School Club	Expository	30 minutes
	Dog Sitting	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Yearbook	Persuasive	30 minutes

High School – (Available with 4-point and 6-point rubrics, unless otherwise noted.)

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9 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Field Trips	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Favorite Possession	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Good Person	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Two Classes	Expository	30 minutes
	Special Skills	Expository	30 minutes
	New School	Narrative	30 minutes
	Forever Young?	Expository	30 minutes
	Lunchroom	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Sound Picture	Descriptive	30 minutes
	How Did You Two Meet?	Narrative	30 minutes
	Story Contest	Narrative	30 minutes
	Day with a Friend	Expository	30 minutes
	Get a Job	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Make-up Day	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Directions for a Meal	Expository	30 minutes
	Exercise for Teenagers	Expository	30 minutes
10 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Extracurricular Activities	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Volunteer Work	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Your School	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Teaching Styles	Expository	30 minutes
	Leadership	Expository	30 minutes
	Travel	Narrative	30 minutes
	Inspiring Teacher	Expository	30 minutes
	Harmless Entertainment?	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Celebrity Role Models	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Babysitting	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Proudest Moment	Narrative	30 minutes
	Pitch Session	Narrative	30 minutes
	Career	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Shapes and Textures	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Loyalty	Expository	30 minutes
	Sounds	Expository	30 minutes

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11 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Military Service	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Guidelines	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Something Beautiful	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Good Friend	Expository	30 minutes
	Fictional Character	Expository	30 minutes
	Goals	Narrative	30 minutes
	After-School Jobs	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Perfect Place to Study	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Life Imitates Art	Narrative	30 minutes
	Where in the World?	Expository	30 minutes
	Clean Your Family Room!	Expository	30 minutes
	Mysterious Item	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Movie Critic	Expository	30 minutes
	A New Fable	Narrative	30 minutes
	Community-Service Class	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Raised Funds	Persuasive	30 minutes
12 th Grade	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Open-Campus Lunches	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Exit Exams	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Special Place	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Motivation	Expository	30 minutes
	Student Leader	Expository	30 minutes
	Memorable School Day	Narrative	30 minutes
	Writing Mentor	Informative (6-point rubric)	25 minutes
	Special Object	Narrative (6-point rubric)	25 minutes
	Voter Registration Drive	Persuasive (6-point rubric)	25 minutes
	Plans After Graduation	Expository (6-point rubric)	30 minutes
	Dress Code	Persuasive (6-point rubric)	30 minutes
	Advice to Freshman	Expository	30 minutes
	A Pet's View	Descriptive	30 minutes
	At First Glance	Narrative	30 minutes
	Math Teams	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Virtual Students	Persuasive	30 minutes
	The Ever-Changing You	Expository	30 minutes
	Sensory Snapshot	Descriptive	30 minutes
	Meaning of Success	Expository	30 minutes
	The Quest	Narrative	30 minutes
	Skateboarding at School	Persuasive	30 minutes

College Level – Note: Prompts listed beneath the heavy black line were added in v4.1.

1st Year/ Placement	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Being an Adult	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Want/Should	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Video Games	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Acceptable Teen Behavior	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Instincts	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Fads and Trends	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Images of Beauty	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Breaking Traditions	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Rebellion	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Choice of Heroes	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Music	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Defining a Generation	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Young People and Selfishness	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Computers and Privilege	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Conformity and Rebellion	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Senior Year	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Male and Female Roles	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Heroes Today	Persuasive	45 minutes
	The Way Things Are Today	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Raising Children	Persuasive	45 minutes
	Product Liability	Persuasive	45 minutes
2nd Year	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Community Service	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Grades	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Making Decisions	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Require Community Service	Persuasive	40 minutes
	College and Career Goals	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Challenging Ideas	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Multimedia Teaching	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Gadgets and Self-Reliance	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Getting Along with Others	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Good Manners	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Setting Expectations	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Electives	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Realistic Career Goals	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Living Wage	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Academic Achievement vs. Age	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Email and Writing Skills	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Handwriting vs. Typing	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Smoking and Health Insurance	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Reality TV	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Bullying and E-Learning	Persuasive	40 minutes
	College Costs	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Achievements vs. Talents	Persuasive	40 minutes
	Teacher Salaries and Student Achievement	Persuasive	40 minutes
	An A for Effort	Persuasive	40 minutes

Upper Division/Graduate School – Note: Prompts listed beneath the heavy black line were added in v4.1.

GRE [®] Test	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Scott Woods	Analyze an Argument	30 minutes
	Roller Skating	Analyze an Argument	30 minutes
	Silver Screen Movies	Analyze an Argument	30 minutes
	Speed Limits in Forestville	Analyze an Argument	30 minutes
	Smile Bright	Analyze an Argument	30 minutes
	University of Claria	Analyze an Argument	30 minutes
	Duty of Educators	Perspective on an Issue	30 minutes
	Higher Education	Perspective on an Issue	30 minutes
	Media and Social Values	Perspective on an Issue	30 minutes
	Technology and Loneliness	Perspective on an Issue	30 minutes
	Generalists vs. Specialists	Perspective on an Issue	30 minutes
	Best Ideas	Perspective on an Issue	30 minutes
	Declining Environment	Perspective on an Issue	30 minutes
	Wisdom	Perspective on an Issue	30 minutes

English Language Training – Note: Prompts listed beneath the heavy black line were added in v4.1.

TOEFL [®] Test	Topic	Writing Style	Timing
	Reasons for Attending College	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Experience or Books	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Money or Technology	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Young People Teaching Older People	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Money and Success	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Playing and Winning	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Group Member or Leader	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Change in Your School	Persuasive	30 minutes
	New Product	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Resources Disappearing	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Changes in the 21 st Century	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Living Longer	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Moving	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Gift of Money	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Hiring Employees	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Dorm Roommate	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Method of Travel	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Land	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Improve Your Community	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Prepare for a Trip	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Films	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Change Your Hometown	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Important Room	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Important Animal	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Important Plant	Persuasive	30 minutes
	Why Study Abroad	Persuasive	30 minutes