



**High School  
Informative/Expository  
Prompt Catalog**

# Higher Education Informative/Expository Prompt Catalog

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*Below each prompt title is the number of sources. Zeros denote prompts that are not research or source dependent. Zeros also indicate when the number of sources is unknown or unspecified (i.e., recommends but does not require sources, or requires research by the student (and/or teacher)).*

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*The Editor's Note provides an overview of the content for this catalog and brief descriptions of the index and appendices included herein.*

## Editor's Note

### Statement of Purpose and Alignment

This catalog provides a list of all of the Informative/Expository prompts that are currently active in MY Access!® and available for use at the High School level. Each prompt aligns to Common Core and State educational standards and assessment practices expected of High School students for the Informative/Expository writing genres. All prompts also align to the educational standards outlined in our rubrics and writing genres, which in turn align to the National and State education standards. Each genre was re-evaluated and updated in accordance with current academic standards and practices to better serve teachers and students. As a result of this and the MY Access!® redesign, several prompts previously found in other genres have been moved to account for these shifts in educational standards and to provide a more accurate representation of the prompts in the system. Please refer to the list of migrated prompts available in the MY Access!® Resource and Training Center to locate prompts that recently moved to other genres, or contact our staff for further assistance in locating specific prompts in the system.

### Catalog Overview

The catalog provides an overview of each prompt in the system. Each catalog entry provides the title of the prompt and the text of the prompt task. The catalog entry only includes the prompt task and basic data related to the prompt. Sources and our in-house specific genre-based prompt instructions are not included. These are accessible in the system for each prompt. However, wherever possible and if applicable, a list of source titles, authors, and data are provided for each prompt entry.

Lexile level data provides a basic reference for the textual complexity levels found in particular sources. This data features in each prompt entry as both a range (from lowest to highest level, or approximate level, for a prompt's sources) and a specific value (if known or available). Only text-based sources include a Lexile level. Any multimedia source, such as a video, audio clip, map, or chart, will feature a Lexile reading of 'N/A' in the system for 'not applicable.' Teachers are encouraged to perform their own assessment of any Lexile levels provided for sources and to assess each prompt to ensure the content is appropriate for your students. All genres include prompts with and without sources. The quantity and complexity of sources varies according to education standards in each grade band.

## A Note about Sources

The catalog lists details about the sources for a particular prompt when known. Sources are considered unknown when a prompt only recommends rather than requires particular sources, or requires students (and/or teachers) to research and provide their own sources. In these cases, a prompt will list a zero as the number of sources. However, this does not necessarily mean the prompt does not include, require, or recommend sources. It merely means the actual source number is unknown or specific sources are not provided. Sometimes a zero source number does simply mean the prompt does not require, need, or provide sources. Some prompts specify a required number of sources to use, while others do not. Each prompt entry in the catalog records the number of sources (if known), Lexile levels (if applicable and/or known), source titles and authors, and notes pertaining to the types of sources used in the prompt. Each Table of Contents entry includes the title of a prompt, whether it is IntelliMetric™ or Pilot, and the number of sources. Source notes provide explanation as to why certain sources were not included directly in the prompt, most often due to copyright regulations and/or length of the source. Other source notes specify if a prompt is source-based, quotation-based, or research-based. Quotations, even if integrated into the prompt task as a stepping off point, are included in the catalog as a source.

## Index and Appendices

New features in the catalogs include the Index and Appendices section found at the end of each catalog. The purpose of these sections is to provide a list of prompt titles at a glance that are specifically source-based, quotation-based, and research-based, as well as a list of titles for prompts that do not require sources or evidence-based research. New features are planned for subsequent publications of the catalogs to make viewing and accessing prompts easier for teachers.

## IntelliMetric™ Prompts

### A Dinner Menu

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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You are preparing a dinner menu to celebrate a special occasion and need to decide what food you will serve to your friends.

Describe each of the foods you will include on your menu and explain why you made the choices you did. Describe how you will present the meal to your friends.

### A Healthy Change

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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We often fail to realize that the choices we make about our health can be unhealthy ones. Lifestyle choices affect our long-term health as well as our risk for disease.

Imagine that you could change things about your lifestyle that would make you healthier. Describe what these changes would be and how they would benefit you and make our society a healthier one.

### A Letter to Your Grandchildren: The World Today

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Today's world is radically different from the world into which your grandparents were born and lived their lives. Profound changes in the economy, social atmosphere, and technological realm have occurred over the last few decades. You may recall stories that your grandparents told you about the world in which they lived. Can you imagine the stories about your world that you will one day recount to your grandchildren?

Write a letter to your grandchildren that they will open in fifty years in which you describe what the world is like right now. Be sure to include specific details and examples to make it vivid for your readers.



discuss the accomplishments fulfilled in the previous year and to delineate the President's legislative plan for the upcoming year. The speech frequently includes important matters such as economic health, national security, the housing industry, healthcare, and education.

Writing a well-developed essay as the President of the United States, discuss how you would plan and implement legislation on one of the topics mentioned above to benefit our country in the coming year.

## Advice to a Presidential Candidate

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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As the U.S. Presidential election season heats up, the voices of America's diverse citizenry cry out, expressing the people's needs, opinions, and visions for the future. In the midst of all these competing voices, the Presidential candidates have to carefully consider what they say in return. Imagine that you have the opportunity to speak privately to the candidate of your choice before he or she makes an important speech. What would you tell him or her to say to America?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the advice you would give to a presidential candidate on a speech to be made to the American public. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

## African Imperialism

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Did the rise of nineteenth-century imperialism in Africa have more positive or negative effects? How did these effects transform the continent and the lives of its people?

In a well-developed essay, describe the effects of nineteenth-century imperialism in Africa. Include historical and present day effects to support your description.

## American Presidents

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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The United States of America has had 44 presidents, all with various strengths and weaknesses. In a multi-paragraph essay, explain who you think was the best American president and why. Make sure to include specific examples and details to support your argument and why.

## An Ethical Dilemma: Job Recommendation

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Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Imagine that your friend has come to you asking for your help in getting a job at your place of employment. While you know that your friend is not a hard worker and you don't want his/her poor performance on the job to reflect on you, you also don't want to let your friend down because you know he/she needs the money.

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe how you would handle this dilemma. Would you recommend your friend for a job, even though you know he or she would not be a good employee? Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your decision.

## Biography of an Author

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Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Choose an author that you like or one that you would like to learn more about. Then, in a detailed essay, write about this particular author's life. What were some of this author's most significant literary works? What are the most prominent parts of the author's life? What were the times like in which this author lived?

In a detailed and well-developed essay, write about the life and times of a particular author of your choice.

## Bullying

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Prompt Source(s): 1

Source Lexile Range: 1000L-1500L

**Source One:** Excerpt from "Bullying" By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1140L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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In the aftermath of several widely reported incidents of school violence across the nation, many parents, teachers, and students are examining the problem of school bullying. To avoid potential tragedies, your school board is considering implementing a policy to address the incidence of bullying.

Write a letter to your local school board in which you discuss the need for a policy to prevent bullying in your school and suggest what steps this policy should take to prevent bullying from occurring.

Remember to specifically identify potential problems and to explain them thoroughly based on your interaction with the following:

- the article below
- your own experiences
- your own observations
- your readings

## Business Letter to a Restaurant

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Think about your most recent meal at your favorite restaurant. What were the positive and negative aspects of the meal? How could the restaurant further improve its food and service?

Write a letter to the manager of your favorite restaurant in which you provide comments and suggestions regarding the restaurant, service, or food. As you write your letter, be sure to use a format and tone appropriate for a business letter.

## Career Goals

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Upon graduating from high school, it is important for students to think about their plans for the future, whether they include additional schooling, joining the workforce, or some other activity.

Think about what you would like your career to be after you graduate from high school. In a well-developed essay, state your career goals for the next five years and explain your plans to achieve these goals.

## Cause and Effect in the Revolutionary War

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Show that you understand and can explain the concept of “cause and effect” as it relates to historical events. The events leading up to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War contain many examples of cause and effect. These can also be seen as instances of action-reaction between the British and the American colonists. Select

and describe three examples of cause and effect that led to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in 1775.

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## Change a Historical Event

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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History is full of events that many people wish had different outcomes, such as battles, wars, and assassinations. If you could go back in time and change a historic event, what would you change, and how would that alter history from that time forward? In a well-developed essay, describe your change to a historic event and its resulting impact on history.

## Character Traits

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Character traits in fictional or real people may have positive or negative effects on the people around them.

Select a person, real or fictional, who possesses character traits that influence others in a positive or negative way. Write an essay in which you describe this person's character traits and provide examples of how these traits affect other people.

## Choose a New Genetic Trait

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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The Human Genome Project identified thousands of known human genes, yet there are still many unanswered questions about the extent of genetic control of many human traits. If you could choose a human trait to be genetically controlled, what trait would you choose? Would it be a physical trait? Would it be a personality trait? How would it be transmitted from parent to child?

In a well-developed essay, describe a human trait that you would like to be genetically controlled and the manner in which it is transmitted between generations.





Write a multi-paragraph essay addressed to an admissions officer in which you discuss a controversial social issue that has become important to you or caused you to rethink how you live your life. Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your ideas.

## College Admissions: Financial Planning

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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As college costs continue to rise faster than the general rate of inflation, young college students are increasingly finding themselves saddled with debt and forced to make complex financial decisions. In response, some colleges now channel freshmen through personal finance seminars in which students learn how to budget, how to understand loan terminology, and how to avoid common financial pitfalls.

Think about the financial challenges you may face when you attend college. You may also want to interview a college student you know about his or her challenging experiences. In an essay addressed to a college financial aid officer, outline the financial challenges you believe you will face as a college student and a plan to deal with them successfully. How can you ensure that you will graduate college in good financial shape?

## College Admissions: Personal Statement

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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When deciding which students to admit, colleges consider many factors about each student. After all, colleges are interested in building a student body that is academically curious, but also diverse and actively engaged in a range of productive, creative activities.

Write a personal statement to be read by a college admissions officer. In this statement, discuss how your academic interests, extracurricular activities, and life experiences will benefit the college community.

## Community Service Requirement

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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High schools across the United States have begun to incorporate community service hours into their graduation requirements. Community service comes in many forms, from repairing houses to tutoring younger students. If you were required to complete

community service as part of your graduation requirements, what service would you select?

Write a multi-paragraph essay describing the community service you would choose to perform. Be sure to provide specific reasons and examples to support your choice.

## Comparing Marketing Messages

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** “Recruitment Posters” By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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When creating print advertisements, marketing professionals work carefully to combine words and images to convey a specific message to the intended audience. Carefully consider the two advertisements. Notice how they are both similar and different.

In a well-organized essay, compare and contrast the two advertisements. What marketing messages do the words and images in each convey? How would you rate their overall effectiveness? Would one advertisement be more effective with a certain audience? Why or why not? Be sure to support your analysis with reasons and examples drawn from the ads and your studies.

## Creating a Budget

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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One of the responsibilities of being an adult is managing a budget that allows you to pay for the basic necessities of life. Imagine in a few years that you have just graduated from college and have landed your first job. After taxes you have \$1,500 dollars each month to spend on housing, utilities, food, supplies, and transportation. How exactly would you budget that money to cover those basic necessities? What things would you be willing to spend more money on? What would you do with extra money?

In a detailed essay, discuss how you would budget \$1,500 each month to cover your expenses and extras. Include examples and reasons to support your budget allocations.

## Crossing the Rubicon: A Fateful Decision

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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“Crossing the Rubicon” is a popular expression that means to go past a point of no return by doing an action so powerful that it is irreversible. It is believed that the phrase originated when Julius Caesar took his armies past the Rubicon Barrier that no general had ever crossed, and marched on to Rome. This was considered an act of war that solidified his power and changed the world forever.

Think of a fateful decision that someone has made that has had a significant and irreversible impact on the world. What was this historic decision and what was its short-term and long-term impact?

Write an essay explaining the fateful historic decision you have chosen and why it would be considered “Crossing the Rubicon.” Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your response.

## Describing a Meaningful Holiday

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Cultures all throughout the world celebrate a variety of special and meaningful holidays. These holidays are special because of historic or religious events associated with them, and often include unique traditions. Is there a unique holiday that you celebrate or have always wanted to celebrate? What is it about this holiday that interests you?

In a well-developed essay, describe a holiday that interests you or in which you participate. Include facts and details on the significance of the holiday and its associated traditions to support your description.

## Designing the Ideal School Building

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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It is often said that students are in the best position to decide how a school building should be designed. If you were asked to build the ideal school, what features would you include? Why?

Write an essay to the new school building committee describing the building features included in your ideal school and why you chose to include those features.

## Effect of the Black Death in Middle Ages Europe

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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The Black Death had profound effects on most of Europe during the Middle Ages. Whom did the Black Death affect, and in what ways did people's lives change?

After researching and reading primary documents and other information, write a multi-paragraph essay describing the effects of the Black Death on people's lives in Europe during the Middle Ages. Include facts and details to support your description.

## Effects of Emotion on Behavior

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 900L-1000L

**Source One:** Excerpt from “Plain Talk about Dealing with the Angry Child”  
By the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health and the Division of Scientific and Public Information

**Source Lexile Level:** 990L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Your psychology class is studying emotions and their effects on behavior. You have been assigned to prepare a report on how to deal with an angry child.

Read the source that follows and use relevant information from it to write a report about the problems of dealing with angry children. In your report suggest some effective techniques for responding to the behavior of an angry child.

## Effects of Technology

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Technology and the changes it brings can have a very big effect on our lives. Which technological change has had the largest effect on life in this country? Why?

Write an essay explaining the technology you have chosen and how it has affected our lives.

## Effects of Television Viewing on Young People

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 1150L-1250L

**Source One:** “Your Children and TV” By Vantage Learning

**Source Lexile Level:** 1150L-1250L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)





—Eleanor Roosevelt

Maturity is a virtue that we all strive for but often find difficult to obtain. It is a quality that we must acquire at some point in our lives as we become adults. What do you think it means to be a mature person?

Write a well-organized essay in which you describe what you think are some of the qualities that make a person mature. Be sure to include specific examples to support your ideas.

## Handling Disruptive Behavior

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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As a student, you've always experienced a classroom from a student's perspective; however, imagine that you are now the teacher. You are in the middle of teaching the day's lesson, and you have a student who has been disrupting class with inappropriate behavior, such as talking out loud, throwing paper wads, walking around, and not participating with the rest of the class. As the teacher, how would you handle this situation? Would you give detention, send the student to the principal's office, or use some type of creative method to deal with the behavior? Are there classroom management strategies that might prevent situations like this from occurring?

In a detailed essay, discuss how you would deal with this situation. Describe the method or methods you would use to control this student's behavior and classroom management techniques which could prevent this type of behavior.

## Healthy Relationships

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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We experience many types of relationships with our family and friends during our lifetimes. Some of these relationships survive over the years, while others deteriorate. What qualities are important to learn and develop in order to sustain healthy, lasting relationships?

In a well-developed essay, discuss those qualities that you feel contribute to a healthy relationship. Support your answer with specific details or examples from your own experience or reading.





Write an essay describing the background music you would choose for your homeroom or another room at school. Tell what the music is like and why you would choose that music.

## Making Science Fiction a Reality

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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In many science fiction movies and television shows, there are futuristic ideas and inventions that we do not have now, but one day hope to enjoy. The idea for cell phones, spaceships, cloning, televisions, and laser tools and weapons existed in science fiction well before their actual creation. In all probability, many of the ideas that are now in movies and television shows will one day be in actual use.

In a detailed essay, describe an invention that you have seen in a movie or television show that you would like to see become reality. Include how its overall use will be beneficial for everyone.

## Memorable Places

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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What place have you visited that you will always remember? It might be close by, or it might be in another part of the world. What was the place like, and why was it special to you?

Choose a place you have visited that was special to you. Write a letter to a friend describing the place and what was special about it. Remember to provide enough details about this place so the reader can picture the place in his or her mind.

## One-Hundred Years of Change

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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Life at the beginning of the twenty-first century is very different from what life was like at the beginning of the twentieth century. Significant changes have occurred in almost every area of life; including space travel, medicine, world politics, communication, and many everyday things we take for granted.

Write an essay describing one significant change that has occurred in the world between 1900 and 2005. Explain the impact this change has made on our lives and why it is an important change.

## Owning a Business

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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If you could operate your own business, what would you choose? It could be anything from a retail enterprise such as a clothing boutique, sporting goods store, or art gallery, to a food service or entertainment business such as a restaurant, coffee shop, or bowling alley.

In a well-developed essay, explain what type of business you would like to own and why. Include details to support your explanation.

## Perceptions of Prejudice

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Think about a time when you experienced prejudice, either as a victim, perpetrator, or observer. How did this experience change you and your perceptions of others?

Write an essay in which you describe this experience and relate it to the changes you experienced as a result. Be sure to support your exposition with details and insight that make the experience and its results clear to your audience.

## Power Sources in the Year 2050

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Picture yourself living in the year 2050. Power sources operating in your house have changed.

Describe the new power sources used to make your home run more efficiently. Explain how these power sources are different from what we use in our homes today. Write about the benefits and disadvantages of this new technology and how it will affect future generations.



## The Challenges and Uses of Native American Languages

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Prompt Source(s): 2 Source Lexile Range: 900L-1120L

- Source One:** “**Laboring over the Birth of a Written Language**”  
By the *Corona-Norco Unified School District (CNUSD)* staff  
900L-1120L
- Source Two:** “**Fighting Words**”  
By the *Corona-Norco Unified School District (CNUSD)* staff  
900L-1120L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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The Cherokee and Navajo languages possess unique qualities that present difficulties and opportunities for native and foreign speakers alike. The following sources describe the creation of the Cherokee alphabet and the use of the Navajo language as an unbreakable code during World War II.

In a detailed essay, discuss the similarities of the challenges faced when working with the Navajo and Cherokee languages and the way that these languages were put to use. Support your discussion with facts and details from the sources.

## The Definition of Integrity

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

We each have an idea of what integrity means in our head, but actually defining this concept is rather difficult. What does integrity mean to you?

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you articulate your definition of integrity. Include specific details and examples from what you have read, heard, and experienced in your interpretation.

## The Future of Your Chosen Career

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

There are many professions or fields from which you can choose a career or job when you complete your education. Think about a profession or type of job that is of interest to you and how you feel it will change in the future. In what ways do you feel this profession or job area will change and why do you feel these changes will occur?

In an essay to be read by your classroom teacher, describe a particular profession or job type, explain how you feel it will change in the future, and present the reasons why.

## The Holocaust: Systems of Persecution

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Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

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In his systematic assault on the peoples of Europe, Adolf Hitler utilized numerous systems to implement the Holocaust. Some of these systems included the wide use of propaganda, the relocation of people to Ghettos, the creation of laws to strip people of their rights, and the use of technology to increase the efficiency of the machinery of genocide.

Choose one of the systems of persecution that was used to implement the Holocaust. Using the Internet, books, or other resources, gather research about this system. Then, write a well-developed essay in which you present this information. Why do you think this system was so important in implementing the Holocaust?

## The Ideal Winter Break

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Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Many students look forward to their winter break. It's a time to relax and spend time with family and friends. How would you spend your ideal winter break? Would you go on a winter getaway? Would you play with the new gadgets or gifts received during the holiday season? Would family or friends share in these fun-filled times?

In a well-developed essay, describe your ideal winter break. Be sure to include details on what would be fun or important to you during this particular time of year.

## The Person You Most Admire

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Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

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At a school assembly, the person you most admire is going to speak to the students in your school. You have been chosen to introduce this person to the audience. Who will that person be, and what will you say about that person?

Write an essay introducing the person you choose and describing the person's best qualities. Remember to provide enough details about this person so the reader can picture him or her in their mind.

## The Poster Boys of World War II

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 1000L-1500L

**Source One:** Excerpt from “Getting the Message Out: The Poster Boys of World War II, Part 2” By Robert Ellis of *Prologue Magazine*

**Source Lexile Level:** 1290L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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At the height of World War II (WWII), the Boy Scouts of America were in every North American town and city, working for the federal government and the Office of War Information (OWI). This volunteer group proved that supporting the war effort, promoting a sense of nationalism, and serving your country could be done outside of a military uniform and battle lines.

After reading Robert Ellis's article “Getting the Message Out: The Poster Boys of World War II, Part 2,” discuss the areas where the Boy Scouts of America positively impacted the war effort, and the challenges they encountered during their participation.

Determine a central idea and analyze its development over the course of the article. Use specific details and facts from the source to support your analysis.

## The Sense You Could Live Without

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

The five senses are an important part of our daily existence, but many people take them for granted. Many Americans live without one or more of these senses: sight, smell, taste, touch, or hearing. If you had to live without one of these senses, which one would you choose?

Write a multi-paragraph essay describing how you would cope with living without an important sense. Be sure to use details and examples to support your response.

## What Decade Would You Like to Experience?

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

Each particular decade in the twentieth century is known for specific fads and events. If you could experience living in any particular decade from the 1920s to the 1990s, which would you choose and why?





## Your Legacy

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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A person's legacy can best be described as the memories and ideas left behind once that individual is gone. Every person leaves some form of a legacy, be it good or bad. Political figures are especially aware of their legacies, since they will be recorded in the nation's historical records. Imagine that years from now your legacy will be included in your family's history. What are some of your unique qualities and deeds that you would like included as your legacy in your family history?

In a well-developed essay, describe the legacy you would like to include in your family history. Include an explanation for choosing those unique qualities and deeds.

## Your Unique Name

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Each of us has a name that makes us unique and helps to identify who we are. Using books, the Internet, or other resources, research the etymology of your name, its use in mythology or religion, and the naming traditions of your family or culture.

Then, write a well-developed essay in which you discuss the meaning of your name, the naming traditions of your culture, and what your name means to you.

## Pilot Prompts

### A Challenged Belief

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Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your belief?

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe a time when a long-cherished or accepted belief of yours was challenged. Discuss your response to the challenge and how the experience may have affected your belief.

### A Meaningful Contribution

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Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Opportunities to contribute one's time and talents to an important cause that benefits the greater good can be both challenging and rewarding.

Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.

### A Significant Moment in Culinary History

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Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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There are moments in time when a discovery or an invention has such a tremendous impact that it changes the course of history. In a well-developed and organized essay, describe a significant moment in culinary history. This could be the invention of a new culinary tool, a new type of cuisine or dining experience, or even a person who had an important impact on the industry. Include an explanation of how this moment changed the culinary field and why this change was so important.

### A Skill in Dental Assisting

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Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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An informational essay is a writing piece that is intended to educate the reader on a particular topic, **excludes** all opinion, and gives factual information on the topic of study

or discussion. In a well-developed and organized essay, identify a skill in dental assisting from the list below and describe the steps needed to complete the skill. Finally, explain how you would use this skill in a dental office. Please choose one of the following skills to discuss:

- Medical/Dental Handwashing Procedure
- Donning PPE and PPE Removal
- Barrier Techniques
- Surface Disinfection and Preventing Cross-Contamination
- Maintaining Dental Waterlines
- Manipulation and Preparation of Gypsum Products and Pouring Models
- Manipulation and Preparation of Alginate Impression Material
- Moisture Control
- Instrument Transfer

### A Value in Which You Believe

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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We use values and beliefs to guide how we live. Think about a value in which you have a strong belief.

In a detailed essay, write about a personal value that you strongly believe in. Include details that enable the reader to understand the personal value and the strength of your belief.

### Acme Company's Hiring Process

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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**Source One:** "Acme Company's Hiring Process" By Vantage Learning

**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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The accompanying graph was compiled by Acme Company's Personnel Department to illustrate their hiring process.

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe the information presented with regard to the company's actual hiring process. You may want to compare, contrast, and categorize information pertaining to the amount of candidates who applied for the position.

## Adult Mortality Rates

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Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: "Adult Mortality Rates" By Vantage Learning  
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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The accompanying graph shows adult mortality rates (from ages 15 to 60) from Ethiopia, the United States, Afghanistan, Switzerland, and China for the years 1990, 2000, and 2006. These data are for both sexes per population of 1,000.

In a multi-paragraph essay, summarize the information contained in the graph. You may want to select and report the main features, compare and contrast data between countries, and make connections to likely contributing factors where relevant.

## American Experience Video Review

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Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: *American Experience Video Series* By PBS  
Source Lexile Level: N/A

Source(s) not provided due to copyright law and/or length of source(s).  
Teachers should provide access to the specified source(s).

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PBS's *American Experience* video series chronicles the lives of historical figures, events, and inventions in America. After watching a video in the series, how do you think the subject of the video had an impact on American history? How does this impact compare to that of other historical figures, inventions, or events? Do you think the series accurately portrays events in American history?

Use your readings and in-class discussions to write a well-developed essay about how the subject of the video you watched had an impact on American history. Be sure to include facts, details, and examples to support your discussion.

## Analysis of "A More Perfect Union" Speech

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Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: 1250L-1350L

Source One: "Transcript of Speech "A More Perfect Union" by U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Barack Obama  
Source Lexile Level: 1250L-1350L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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In March 2008, remarks made in Pastor Jeremiah Wright's sermons came under public scrutiny. These remarks were critical of the US government and white people. At that time, presidential candidate Barack Obama was a member of Pastor Wright's church and was asked on many occasions to comment on Wright's remarks. Also in March 2008, then-Senator Obama made the "A More Perfect Union" speech at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in which he addressed Wright's comments and called for greater cultural understanding.

After reading Obama's "A More Perfect Union" speech, write a detailed essay in which you analyze the speech and relate Obama's experience and perspective to your experiences and perspective. Include details from the speech to support your analysis.

### Analysis of a Source of News

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Television, radio, newspaper, and individual conversations are just a few sources of news available to us. While most people probably rely on combinations of these sources for their news, some people rely on a particular source almost exclusively.

Write an essay discussing the relative strengths and weaknesses of one particular source for news. Provide examples to illustrate your claims. Develop your ideas so vividly that a reader will have a clear understanding of the benefits and shortcomings of a particular source of news.

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### Analysis of Program Enrollment Trends

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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**Source One:** "Adult Mortality Rates" By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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The accompanying graph was compiled by Acme University's Admissions Department to show trends in the numbers of students applying to major in engineering, liberal arts, and allied health programs in 2005 through 2009.

In a multi-paragraph essay, analyze the graph and describe the major trends and details that it displays. In your response, focus on comparing, contrasting, and categorizing the data in the graph.

## Ancient Civilizations: The Government of the Ancient Roman Republic

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Prompt Source(s): 5 Source Lexile Range: 1000L-1300L

Source One:	“Roman Society and Political Structure” By Jessica Whittemore of <i>Study.com</i> and Education Portal
Source Lexile Level:	1000L-1300L
Source Two:	Excerpt (Part I) from “Roman Government” By Donald L. Wasson of Lincoln College
Source Lexile Level:	1000L-1300L
Source Three:	Excerpt (Part II) from “Roman Government” By Donald L. Wasson of Lincoln College
Source Lexile Level:	1000L-1300L
Source Four:	Excerpt (Part III) from “Roman Government” By Donald L. Wasson of Lincoln College
Source Lexile Level:	1000L-1300L
Source Five:	“Roman Government Timeline” By Ancient History Encyclopedia
Source Lexile Level:	N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Your world history class is currently studying the government of the Ancient Roman Republic. Your assignment is to write an explanatory research article using multiple sources about the government of the Roman Republic. In your article, explain the government system and the hierarchy of roles and positions within the government of the Ancient Roman Republic. You will present your article to your class during the upcoming Cultural Festival at your school.

Review each of the **five** sources and select the most relevant information from the sources to develop a thesis/controlling idea about the government system of the Roman Republic. Then, write a multi-paragraph explanatory article explaining your thesis/controlling idea about the government of the Ancient Roman Republic. Clearly organize your article and elaborate your ideas. Reference the source title or number when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing evidence from the sources.

## Application of Newton's Laws of Motion

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Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One:	“Newton’s Laws of Motion” By Sir Isaac Newton
Source Lexile Level:	N/A

Source(s) not provided due to copyright law and/or length of source(s).  
Teachers should provide access to the specified source(s).

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Newton's Laws of Motion describe and explain the effects of forces acting on a body and that body's motion resulting from the forces acting on it. Newton explained motion in three laws.

Using examples and appropriate scientific terminology, describe and discuss an application of each of Newton's Laws of Motion.

### Billy Joel's "Allentown": Stories of Our Cities

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**Prompt Source(s):** 2 **Source Lexile Range:** NP

**Source One:** "Allentown" By Billy Joel  
**Source Lexile Level:** NP

**Source Two:** Video "Allentown" By Billy Joel  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Billy Joel's well-known song "Allentown," released in 1982, tells the tale of a Pennsylvania town enduring economic hardship, as many of its steel factories were closing down. The song attempts to depict the lives of the blue-collar workers during the decline of the manufacturing industry during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Can you think of a city, either in the United States or another part of the world, that is currently experiencing some type of economic decline?

In a detailed essay, discuss a current city experiencing economic hardship, similar to that of Allentown in Billy Joel's song. Provide details and reasons pertaining to this city's economic situation in your discussion.

### Black Like Me: Then and Now

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 900L-1000L

**Source One:** *Black Like Me* By John Howard Griffin  
**Source Lexile Level:** 990L

Source(s) not provided due to copyright law and/or length of source(s).  
Teachers should provide access to the specified source(s).

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In 1959, John Howard Griffin, a white journalist exploring the black man's experience in the segregated South, recruited a dermatologist to assist him in artificially darkening his skin by using drugs, sunlamp treatments, and skin creams. Griffin did this so he could

travel through Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina as a black man. Even people who knew Griffin well did not recognize him with his darkened skin and shaved head. Griffin kept a diary during the weeks he traveled and subsequently wrote the book *Black Like Me*. In his diary and book, Griffin tells of both blacks and whites disapproving of the things he did. He writes about the “hate” stares received from whites, and the scowls received from black bus riders when he offered his seat to a white woman. Most of the general public responded well to his book; however, Griffin received enough negative responses to incite a temporary move to Mexico for safety reasons.

Do you think that Griffin's experiences traveling as a black man in post-civil rights America would be very different from his experiences traveling as a black man in segregated America? How would some of the situations change or stay the same?

In a detailed essay, compare and contrast Griffin's experiences in the segregated South with what he might experience today. Use facts and details about the different eras to support your assertions.

### **Business: Auto Service Follow-up Letter**

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine that a regular customer just visited your automotive repair facility. You completed a 30,000-mile inspection and changed the engine and transmission fluids and filters. During the inspection, you noticed that the timing belt and serpentine belt showed cracks.

Write a multi-paragraph letter to the customer in which you summarize the repairs you completed and make recommendations for additional services. Because the customer's knowledge about cars may be different from yours, be sure to use language that the customer will understand as you explain the services clearly.

### **Business: Develop a Dress Code Policy (Part 1)**

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine you are a mid-level manager at a growing company. As the company has added staff, some employees have been observed dressing in casual attire. Senior management wishes to establish a policy regulating how employees dress. It seeks a company-wide policy that is not overly formal, but rather one which sets clear standards and limits the most casual forms of dress. You have been asked to write the first draft of this new policy for the senior management team.



In an organized, multi-paragraph essay, discuss the need for a dress-code policy in your workplace and provide several specific, detailed guidelines. Use reasons and examples to make your recommendations persuasive to the senior management team.

## Business: Dress Code E-mail (Part 2)

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** "Memo 3 – Mileage Guides" By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Imagine you are a mid-level manager at a growing company. Senior management has officially accepted the dress-code policy you developed. You have been asked to write an email to deliver this new policy to the whole company.

Write a multi-paragraph email to be read by the whole company in which you explain the new dress-code policy. Be sure to set clear expectations for the staff and identify the repercussions for those who violate the policy. Choose your words carefully, as this email will become part of the company's official policy.

[Click here to read a real-world memo which describes a company's mileage reimbursement policy.](#)

## Business: Dress Code Violation Notice (Part 4)

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Imagine you are a mid-level manager at a growing company. Under the direction of the senior management, you created a new dress-code policy that has been in effect for six months. While there has been some debate about the policy among the employees, the policy has been accepted by most. One employee, however, has refused to follow the new policy. You are the direct supervisor of this employee.

Write a corrective letter to this employee in which you explain the importance of the new dress code policy and describe how you expect the employee to behave. Choose your words carefully, as this letter will be read by everyone in the company.

## Business (Hotel Scenario Part 1): Complaint Letter

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** "Sample Letter Response" By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Imagine you are a customer service manager for a major hotel chain. A guest recently visited one of your hotels in Chicago. The guest found a cockroach in the room and was extremely dissatisfied with the hotel. The guest complained to the local manager who has asked for your help.

Write a letter to the guest in which you address his or her concerns and describe the steps you plan to take to fix the problem. Remember to choose your words carefully. While you have to honestly and directly address the customer's complaint, you also have to protect the hotel's image.

[Click here to read a sample response.](#)

## Business (Hotel Scenario Part 2): Housekeeping Email

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Imagine you are a customer service manager for a major hotel chain. A guest recently visited one of your hotels in Chicago. The guest found a cockroach in the room and was extremely dissatisfied with the hotel. The guest complained to the local manager who has asked for your help.

Write an email to the local manager of the hotel housekeeping staff in which you explain the problem as it was described to you by the customer. Indicate what steps you expect the local housekeeping staff to take to fix the problem and ensure it does not happen again. Remember to choose your words carefully as you describe the problem and solution to the local manager.

## Business (Hotel Scenario Part 3): Pest Control Letter

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Imagine you are a customer service manager for a major hotel chain. A guest recently visited one of your hotels in Chicago. The guest found a cockroach in the room and was extremely dissatisfied with the hotel. The guest complained to the local manager who explained that the hotel had just been serviced by a local pest control company.



Barack Obama assumed the presidency at a time of great uncertainty; when economic and political crises, both domestic and foreign, had shaken the confidence of many Americans. Obama acknowledged these challenges after taking his oath of office and suggested his government was ready to face them, saying,

“For everywhere we look, there is work to be done.”

Yet, in a manner reminiscent of John F. Kennedy's inaugural petition,

“... ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country,”

Obama observed that his government alone could not solve all of the nation's problems.

Carefully consider this excerpt from Obama's address:

For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the firefighter's courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent's willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate.

Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon which our success depends - hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism - these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history. What is demanded then is a return to these truths. What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.

How will you heed this call? What duties can you perform to help America meet its challenges?

Write an essay in which you describe the specific actions that you can take right now to help your nation meets its challenges. How will these actions benefit the nation?

## Campaign Finance Rules Decision

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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In 2010, the Supreme Court changed campaign finance rules in its decision on *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*. As an acclaimed professor at Georgetown University, you have been invited to discuss the decision on CNN. You are tasked with preparing an analysis of the ramifications of this decision.

Research online sources about the Supreme Court's ruling, that present the arguments for both sides and the predicted impact of the decision. Write a detailed analysis in which you explain the initial decision, summarizing both sides of the argument. Include





## Choosing Advertising Media for Two Businesses

Prompt Source(s): 4

Source Lexile Range: 1000L-1500L

**Source One:** “The Importance of Advertisements” By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1000L-1500L

**Source Two:** “SBA Delivering Success: Marketing 101”  
By the U.S. Small Business Administration  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1000L-1500L

**Source Three:** “Humphry Slocombe: Promote Using Free Online Marketing”  
By the U.S. Small Business Administration  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1000L-1500L

**Source Four:** “Types of Advertising” By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1000L-1500L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Different businesses use different types of advertising media to reach their target markets. Radio, television, billboards, and website banners are some of the many types of media used to communicate an advertising message. Imagine that you are a marketing professional working on advertising campaigns for two businesses: Don't Fret and Elevate (described below). Use the attached texts and resources to determine the types of advertising media that would be most effective for each business. Considering the consumers they are trying to attract and the products they are selling, how would the advertising campaigns for Elevate and Don't Fret compare?

Use the attached resources to choose the most effective types of advertising media for Don't Fret, a local guitar store, and Elevate, an organization that assists the elderly with daily living. Then, in a detailed essay, explain your choices of advertising media for Don't Fret and Elevate and discuss how they appeal to the target consumer for each business. Cite the text and resources to justify your choices.

**Don't Fret** - Don't Fret is a guitar store located on Main Street. They offer a wide selection of electric and acoustic guitars, including accessories such as amplifiers and strings. They also offer repair services and lessons by appointment. The guitar experts at Don't Fret believe that anyone, from beginners to advanced players, will enjoy the products featured at their store. They offer lessons and repair services from 12-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the store is open for business Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 11-7.

**Elevate** - Elevate is an organization that caters to the needs of elderly clients who prefer to live in their own homes with some assistance. They provide assistance on an hourly basis, as well as long-term personalized care. Families can feel confident that their parents and grandparents are being cared for by experienced professionals who are trained in handling the needs of independent-minded senior citizens.





## Compare and Contrast Families of Organic Compounds

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Organic compounds are also known as hydrocarbons because their main chemical composition is carbon and hydrogen. Other atoms like oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulfur are also important for some groups of organic compounds. Despite the similarities in chemical composition, groups of organic compounds—proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, and nucleic acids—have distinctly different structures and functions. Many proteins are enzymes, which facilitate chemical reactions in our bodies. Carbohydrates and lipids provide energy for our bodies, and nucleic acids are instrumental in genetics.

In a detailed essay, compare and contrast groups of organic compounds. Include chemical structure and role in living organisms in your discussion.

## Compare and Contrast Newspaper Headline Articles

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Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

**Source One:** The *Newseum* Website:  
<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Click here to view the source(s) for this prompt.

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Newspaper headlines are written to reflect the concerns of readers. Headline articles may report on political, government, sports, local, national, or international news. From the *Newseum* website, select two different newspaper headline articles from two different locations in the United States. How do the nature of the articles, the perspective of the writers, and the reason(s) for their importance to the location compare and contrast?

In a multi-paragraph essay, compare and contrast at least two headline articles from locations in the United States. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

## Comparison of “Imagine” and “We Are the World”

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Prompt Source(s): 2 Source Lexile Range: NP

**Source One:** “Imagine” by John Lennon  
**Source Lexile Level:** NP  
**Source Two:** “We Are the World” by USA for Africa  
**Source Lexile Level:** NP

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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The classic songs “Imagine” by John Lennon and “We Are the World” by USA for Africa share the theme of hope for a peaceful world. Although the messages of both songs are similar, there are also differences between the two.

In a well-developed essay, analyze the meanings and messages expressed in both “Imagine” and “We Are the World,” and then compare and contrast the two songs. Provide examples from both songs to support your comparison.

### Conservation of Linear Momentum

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Linear momentum cannot change in a closed system of particles.

Explain and illustrate the statement above using an example of a system of particles. Use scientific terminology appropriately to describe the particles, center of mass, momentum, internal and external forces, and conservation of momentum.

### Contaminants and Allergens

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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In a well-developed essay, identify the three types of contaminants and the seven different allergens (nuts being one category) and describe each one in detail. In your essay, explain the relationship between contaminants and allergens and why this knowledge is important to successfully work in the restaurant industry.

### Converting to a New Religion

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism are frequently considered the five major religions of the world. Imagine you were required to change your current religion to one of these major religions. Which religion would you choose? What aspects of this religion appeal to you?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss your choice of a new religion and your reasons for choosing it. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

## Cooking with Fats and Oils

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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There are many different types of fats and oils used in cooking with which chefs need to be well-versed. In a well-developed and organized essay, identify and describe six different types of fats and oils. Include a detailed description of the purposes of using fats and oils in cooking, the best fat or oil to use in a given situation, and the cooking temperatures for smoking points for each fat or oil. In addition, include an explanation of the difference between saturated and non-saturated fats and why chefs should consider the difference when they cook.

## Create and Describe Electrical Circuits

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Electrical circuits need an energy source, a closed path, and a device that uses the energy. The source of the energy can be direct current (DC) like a battery, or alternating current (AC) like electrical outlets in our houses. The closed path through which the energy flows can have devices using the energy arranged in series, parallel, or a combination of the two.

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe an electrical circuit. Include a description of the energy source, flow of energy through the circuit, the devices that use the energy, and the arrangement of the devices in the circuit (parallel, series, or a combination).

## Dental Amalgam Restorative Procedure

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Direct restorative materials include the use of dental amalgam. Dental amalgam has been used as a restorative material in posterior teeth for many years. In an organized and well-developed essay, explain the dental amalgam restorative procedure and the role of the dental assistant in this procedure. Include the names of instruments, use of medications, set-up for the procedure, tooth number for your restoration, cleanup after the procedure, and patient postoperative care of the restoration.

## Description of a Kinematic System

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Kinematic systems can be described in terms of velocity, projectile motion, distance, displacement, acceleration, time, and/or direction.

In a multi-paragraph essay, using the appropriate scientific terminology, describe all facets of a kinematic system in detail.

## Description of a “Natural Leader”

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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A person who seems in charge of every situation is sometimes called a “natural leader.” People often look to such a person to lead them in projects both great and small. Describe someone you have read about who seems to be a “natural leader.” Write an essay in which you describe the person and his or her accomplishments so vividly that your readers will feel they know this person.

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## Description of a Venn Diagram

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Describe what a Venn diagram is.

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## Designing a Workout Program for Yourself

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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If you were a personal trainer, what workout program would you design for yourself?

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## Differences Between Pyramids

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Explain in words how a triangular pyramid differs from a rectangular pyramid.

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## Different Types of Music for Different Events

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Explain why different types of music are needed for different types of ceremonies and events.

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## Disillusionment and Isolation

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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In what ways are the ideas of disillusionment and isolation of the early twentieth century still prevalent today?

After reading the teacher-provided sources, write an essay that compares and contrasts disillusionment and isolation in the early twentieth century and today. Support your discussion with evidence from the sources.

## Does Your Environment Define You or Do You Define Your Environment?

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**Prompt Source(s):** 2 quotes. **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** Quotation By Orison Swett Marden  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

**Source Two:** Quotation By W. Clement Stone  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

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“We make the world we live in and shape our own environment.”

—Orison Swett Marden

“Be careful the environment you choose for it will shape you . . . .”

—W. Clement Stone

The quotations by Marden and Stone reflect two very different views about individuals and their environments. Does your environment shape your character, choices, and purpose? Is everything you do a response to your environment or do you shape your environment by your presence, decisions, and existence?

What do you believe? What does your belief reveal about your view of the world around you? In a detailed essay, explain whether you believe that you define your environment or your environment defines you. Include details and in-depth examples from personal experience, readings, and research to support your explanation.

## Duality of Humankind

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1

**Source Lexile Range:** 1000L-1500L

**Source One:** *The Souls of Black Folk* By W. E. B. Dubois

**Source Lexile Level:** 1280L

Source(s) not provided due to copyright law and/or length of source(s).  
Teachers should provide access to the specified source(s).

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Throughout history, many intellects have perceived the notion of mankind as having an outer self (the side we show for others) and an inner self (a place where our true self lies). In *The Souls of Black Folk*, W. E. B. Dubois saw the African American as living life through a veil. On the outside of the veil lies the surface world and how he is perceived or presents himself, and on the inside of the veil is his true self, where he keeps his most guarded thoughts and aspirations.

In a detailed essay, explain whether you believe it is wise to live a duality of inner and outer self, or better to live as the true person that you are, both inside and out.

## Early American Inventions

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Imagine that you are living in Philadelphia during the Industrial Revolution (1870s to 1890s). Select an invention that was developed during that time period and write an informational article about the invention for the local newspaper. Your article should

describe the invention, define its purpose, describe its positive aspects, and explain how it will improve the lives of the people living in the United States during the Industrial Revolution.

## Earth Systems

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Earth is a collection of dynamic systems that have undergone significant changes throughout time to become what they are today. Plate tectonics explains many natural phenomena like earthquakes and volcanoes, the atmosphere plays a large role in determining weather and climate, and Earth's water and soil impact the productivity and habitability of the land, among other things.

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe the interrelationships of Earth's systems. Use scientific facts and examples to support your discussion.

## Economic Impact of Environmental Decisions

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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As we become more aware of our impact on the environment, citizens and legislators are faced with decisions which impact local, state, and national economies. For example, government restrictions on construction due to effects on endangered species or wetland areas can affect the employment levels of a community. If you were a citizen or government official facing a decision between environmental protection and local economics, what factors would affect your decision-making process?

In a well-developed essay, discuss the factors which might affect the decision-making process when either the environment or local economics are at stake. Include facts and examples to support your discussion.

## Economic Impact of Pollution

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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There are costs and benefits associated with pollution. Although the general public does not desire to live in a polluted world, the economic impact of a pollution-free environment may not be desirable either.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the economic impact of controlling a form of pollution. Consider including cost-benefit analysis, marginal costs, and sustainability in your discussion. Include facts and examples to support your discussion.

## Effect of the Loss of a Species

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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You have probably heard or read in the news about the concern over extinction of species by habitat loss, pollution, and other anthropological and natural factors. Describe how the loss of a species can have an undesirable effect on the surviving organisms in a food web.

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## Electron Transport in Biochemical Pathways

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Energy movement in biochemical pathways is determined by electron transfer. In both metabolic and catabolic reactions like respiration, photosynthesis, glycolysis, and fermentation, energy is captured or made available to the organism via the transfer of electrons.

In a detailed essay, discuss the flow of energy through the transfer of electrons in biochemical pathways. Use facts and examples to support your discussion.

## Energy Flow

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Plants on Earth utilize solar energy to photosynthesize, beginning the flow of energy from the sun to all living things on Earth. This energy flows through food webs and trophic levels, sustaining life at all levels.

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe the flow of energy from the sun through living things on Earth. Include scientific facts and examples to support your description.







In a detailed essay, describe a demonstration of electromagnetic induction using Faraday's and Lenz's Laws to explain the phenomena observed. Use appropriate scientific terminology in your description.

## Father and Son in Chapin's "Cat's in the Cradle"

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** "Cat's in the Cradle" By Harry Chapin  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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The folk rock song "Cat's in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin tells the story of a relationship between a father and son. Based on a poem written by Chapin's wife, Sandy, about her first husband and his father, the song became a hit for Harry Chapin when it was released in 1974. Paying close attention to the lyrics of the song, one sees that the lyrics tell a story in chronological order. How do the feelings and actions change between the father and son as the song continues?

In a well-developed essay, analyze the lyrics of the song and explain the relationship between the father and son, paying particular attention to the changes that take place in their relationship over time. Be sure to cite lyrics from the song in support of your analysis.

## Favorite Genre

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

There are many types of books and literature available to readers, including creative adventures, science fiction, autobiographies, and poetry. In a detailed essay, describe your favorite literary genre and why you enjoy it.

## Formula for Intelligence

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 quot. **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** Quotation By Carl Sagan  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

“Knowing a great deal is not the same as being smart; intelligence is not information alone but also judgment, the manner in which information is collected and used.”

—Carl Sagan

There are many aspects that play into a person's intelligence that go beyond academic learning. Factors such as life experience, emotional control, and decision making will also play a major role in the completion of one's intellect. Imagine that you were asked to create the formula for an intelligent person. What are some of the key components a person would need to achieve intelligence?

In a detailed essay, describe your formula for intelligence.

## Future of an Endangered Species

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** List of Endangered Species  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Source(s) not provided due to copyright law and/or length of source(s).  
Teachers should provide access to the specified source(s).

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Many animal species are in danger of becoming extinct because of challenges that threaten their survival. Select an animal from the Endangered Species List. Then, research the animal's characteristics, living habits, habitat, and adaptations to its habitat.

In a detailed essay, discuss the endangered animal you researched and possible solutions for its future success. Include information from your research that enables the reader to better understand the animal and the challenges that threaten its survival.

## Game-Changing Performances

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**Prompt Source(s):** 2 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:**  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

**Source Two:** “DigitalSports Style Guide” Provided by Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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The goal of a sports game story is not to just report the final score, but also to tell the reader about the turning points in the game that led to the end result.



Geometry plays an important role in the design and construction of buildings, bridges, and other structures. In a well-developed essay, discuss a structure and the way that geometry is used in its design and construction.

## Grains

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Grains are incorporated regularly in restaurant menus. They are nutritious, relatively inexpensive, and have a long shelf life. Grains are dried and need to be rehydrated before consuming. There are multiple techniques that can be used to prepare grains; some types of grains can benefit from one technique over another.

Write an informative essay that compares and contrasts the different types of grains and methods used to cook them, such as, steaming, the pilaf method, and the risotto method.

## Hair as Forensic Evidence

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Imagine that you are an expert witness, presenting information to a jury on the use of hair as evidence obtained in a crime scene.

Write a multi-paragraph testimony to the court explaining how hair can be used as evidence in a crime. Be sure to support your explanation with detailed reasons and examples that clearly communicates your knowledge of the use and limitations of hair as evidence. Choose your words carefully, as your testimony will be read to the jury and the fate of a suspect rests on the information you provide.

## Hairdressing: Chemical Texture Service—Permanent Waving Scenario

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Mrs. Carr returned to a salon, angry that her perm “fried” her hair. She pointed out that, as a result of the process, her hair was curly at the scalp and halfway down the strand, while the bottom section of the strand was straight, dry and frizzy.

In a detailed written response, develop a plan that describes the best options to improve the appearance and condition of Mrs. Carr's hair.

In preparation for writing, review the chemical card record, identifying procedure modification practices. Decide if Mrs. Carr's hair is over or under-processed. Predict how and when the damage occurred and provide evidence to support your reasoning. Recall how the pH scale and the side bonds are directly involved during the chemical process. Consider whether the straight ends of the hair have enough strength to maintain a curl, if you decide to re-perm Mrs. Carr's hair.

## Hairdressing: Hair Color Scenario

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Hair coloring services are in high demand, as clients are looking for creative ways to artistically express their personalities, enhance their appearance, or camouflage facial imperfections. A hair color specialist must fully understand the law and theory of color to properly formulate and achieve a client's desired result. Through the world of color, hair colorists are known to build strong relationships and client loyalty.

In a well-developed essay, explain the technical chemistry of hair color. Be sure to use the correct terminology to articulate color theory concepts. Begin by describing how conducting a consultation will help a client achieve an understanding of her desired look. Then consider the following:

- What questions will help you determine the appropriate color service and application of the best technique to use?
- Identify the type of product that will achieve the desired look, and identify it as oxidative and non-oxidative.
- How does identifying natural levels, tone, and intensity play a role in formulating hair color?
- How does determining the percentage of gray affect the formulation?
- How will using the correct hydrogen peroxide developer create a change during the chemical process of hair color?

In your conclusion, emphasize how your knowledge about the rules of corrective color and safety precautions will result in a satisfying outcome.

## Hairdressing: The Chemistry of Hair Color

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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In an informative essay, explain the meaning of oxidative and non-oxidative hair coloring and the types of hair coloring that fall in each category. Also, include in your

essay an explanation of how molecular size affects the hair strand and ultimately affects the lasting ability.

## Harriet Tubman: The Cost of Liberty

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 1000L-1300L

- Source One:** “Harriet Tubman: A Brief Biography” By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1000L-1300L
- Source Two:** “Harriet Tubman - Civil Rights Activist | Mini Bio | BIO”  
 By the Biography Channel  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A
- Source Three:** “People and Events: Harriet Tubman (c. 1820-1913)”  
 By the *Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)*  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1000L-1300L
- Source Four:** “Harriet Tubman (ca. 1820-1913)”  
 By the *National Women's History Museum* staff  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1000L-1300L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Research Harriet Tubman's life using the sources provided. As you research, consider how Harriet Tubman inspired others to continue the battle for freedom through her words and deeds.

Then, examine the quote below from *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*. How does this quote embody the fight for freedom, justice, and equality by slaves and other oppressed people during the Civil War era?

“We got to go free or die. And freedom's not bought with dust.”  
 —Harriet Tubman from *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* by Ann Petry

Write a multi-paragraph explanatory essay in which you explain how this quote embodies Tubman's fight for freedom, equality, and justice. Your essay should incorporate your research and clearly explain Harriet Tubman's belief about the cost of liberty.

## Health and Safety Credentials

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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In a well-developed and organized essay, explain why it is important to have safety credentials such as OSHA, Serv Safe, and/or CPR. Include an explanation of the OSHA standards, such as the Focus Four.





## How Change or Diversity has Affected Your Life

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Global studies increase our awareness of the change and diversity present all around us. In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss instances where change or diversity has affected your life. Include details and examples to support your discussion.

## How Do You Know This is a Rotation Problem?

Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

You are taking a physics exam, and you are stuck on a certain problem. You suddenly realize that torque is central to the problem, and then you are ready to solve it.

Using appropriate physics terminology, explain why torque was a sure clue to the nature of the problem, and propose a strategy or strategies for solving it.

## How is America a Place and an Idea?

Prompt Source(s): 4 Source Lexile Range: 750L-1200L

**Source One:** Excerpt from the Manuscript of the “Gettysburg Address”  
By Abraham Lincoln, provided courtesy of the *Library of Congress*  
**Source Lexile Level:** 790L

**Source Two:** “The Spirit of Liberty” Speech By Judge Learned Hand, provided  
courtesy of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1130L

**Source Three:** “The Star-Spangled Banner” By Francis Scott Key  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1170L

**Source Four:** “The New Colossus” By Emma Lazarus  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1090L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

America was settled with the intention of being a safe place for many people of different religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Today, America is still home to millions of people from diverse cultures. Why do you think America has been a source of pride and refuge for so many people throughout history? What kinds of ideas does America as a country represent?

Review and assess the sources. Then, write a multi-paragraph essay in which you explain how each source discusses America as a place and an idea. Use specific



In a well-developed essay, discuss how the key ideas and principles of the Declaration of Independence have changed history. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

## Importance of Career Fairs

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Many schools sponsor a Career Fair where students can discuss career opportunities with persons who work in different professions. Think about the benefits of attending a Career Fair. Now write to explain the benefits of attending a Career Fair.

## Important Modes of Transportation

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Many modes of transportation are used in the world today. Goods and people around the world move from place to place by automobile, bicycle, airplane, horse, boat, train, and many others. Which mode of transportation do you think is particularly important? How is this type of transportation helpful or valuable?

Write an essay about one form of transportation used in our world today. Describe what it is used for and why you think it is especially significant.

## Industrialization and Imperialism

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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After successfully assisting the government of Country X in creating a new Constitution, the Prime Minister has hired you to be her Chief of Staff. Your primary role is to serve as her personal advisor. Country X has been industrializing its economy, which has created many new challenges for the government and people of Country X.

The Prime Minister has asked you to use your knowledge of history to inform her of the issues Country X now faces as a result of industrialization. As her Chief of Staff, you must present a well-written multi-paragraph essay that includes an introduction, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion. In particular, you must explain to the Prime Minister the positive and negative effects of each of the following main issues:

- Country X's lack of natural resources (i.e., imperialism)
- Social implications of industrialization (e.g., plight of workers, etc.)
- Expectations for political and economic changes





would later be used as a symbol by many poor and disenfranchised workers asking for better treatment and equal rights. Several versions of his tale are told, and this story has become one of the most popular ballads in American history.

After reading the folktale of John Henry, in a detailed essay, describe why the folktale of John Henry became such an important symbol for the American worker and the struggle for equality. Use details and examples to support your response.

## Knowledge of Historic Events

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Historic events take place around the world almost every day. We become aware of these events by reading a newspaper, watching television news, or surfing the Internet. We are able to study these events, past and present, through artifacts, history books, or other recorded sources.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the sources we turn to for our knowledge of historic events. Include details and examples to support your discussion.

## “Living for the City”: A Look at Poverty and Racism

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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**Source One:** “Living for the City” By Stevie Wonder  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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“Living for the City” is a 1973 hit song by Stevie Wonder that explores the themes of poverty and racism by telling the story of an African American boy and his family. The song brings forth the various social conditions that impacted African Americans in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s.

In a detailed essay, analyze the meaning of this song stanza by stanza in connection with the social and economic conditions surrounding African Americans during this time in history.. Also analyze the meaning of any figurative language used in the song, and cite lyrics from the song to support your analysis.

## Magnetic and Electric Fields Affect Each Other

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Introduction of a magnetic field into an electric field will have a predictable effect on the electric field. The same is true of the introduction of an electric field into a magnetic field.

In a detailed essay, describe the effects that a magnetic field can have on an electric field and an electric field can have on a magnetic field. Be sure to use appropriate scientific terminology and include all pertinent details in your description.

## Managing Your Personal Finances

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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A wide variety of subjects and topics are taught in today's schools. However, courses in personal finance may not be offered, and they are certainly not required for graduation. As a result, many of today's young adults graduate high school (and even college) knowing very little about how to manage their money, including how to balance a check book, differentiate between credit and debit, and invest for the future. After participating in a class or viewing a video on personal finance, how has your understanding of handling your personal finances improved? What plans will you make or actions will you take as a result?

In a well-developed essay, discuss the class or video topic on personal finance. Include what you learned and how it will impact your personal finances.

## Marine Biology: Understanding Whale Communication

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 4	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> 1000L-1600L
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|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Source One:</b>          | <b>Excerpt from “Whale Communication”</b> By the <i>Whale-World.com</i> staff  |
| <b>Source Lexile Level:</b> | 1000L-1600L  |
| <b>Source Two:</b>          | <b>Excerpt (Part I) from “How Do Whales Communicate?”</b> By the <i>Whalefacts.org</i> staff, provided courtesy of <i>Whale Facts</i>  |
| <b>Source Lexile Level:</b> | 1000L-1600L  |
| <b>Source Three:</b>        | <b>Excerpt (Part II) from “How Do Whales Communicate?”</b> By the <i>Whalefacts.org</i> staff, provided courtesy of <i>Whale Facts</i> |
| <b>Source Lexile Level:</b> | 1000L-1600L  |
| <b>Source Four:</b>         | <b>“Whale Sounds”</b> By the <i>WhaleSounds.com</i> staff, provided by <i>WhaleSounds.com</i> and <i>SpaceSounds.com, Inc.</i>         |
| <b>Source Lexile Level:</b> | N/A  |

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Your biology class is currently studying whales. Your assignment is to write an explanatory research article about whale communication. You will present your article to your class during the upcoming Science Fair at your school. You found **four** sources about whale communication to use for your research. Your article should describe how and why whales communicate and the impact environmental factors have on whale communication.

Review each of the **four** sources and select the most relevant information to develop a thesis/controlling idea about whale communication. Then, write a multi-paragraph explanatory article about whale communication. Clearly organize your article and elaborate your ideas. Reference the source title or number when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing evidence from the sources.

## Martin Luther King Jr.

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
<b>Source One:</b>	"Letter from Birmingham City Jail" By Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.		
<b>Source Lexile Level:</b>	N/A		

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Throughout history, citizens have struggled with such issues as slavery, religious persecution, and resistance to war when their consciences demanded that they act in one way while the law demanded they act in another. Breaking the law in order to do what one considers right is an act of civil disobedience. Martin Luther King Jr. raised precisely this issue in his "Letter From Birmingham City Jail." He had been arrested for violating the law in protest of racial segregation in the American South.

Relying on your reading of the passage or outside research, write an essay in which you describe an instance in which Martin Luther King Jr. practiced civil disobedience. Be sure to address both sides of the issue. In the instance you discuss, do you think civil disobedience was an appropriate response?

## Math Video Improves Understanding

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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We are not usually asked to describe or discuss math concepts except in a math class, and we are very rarely asked to write about them. However, writing about math concepts can improve learning, reinforce our understanding of the concepts, and strengthen our understanding of the vocabulary and terminology. After viewing a math video, think about the new concepts introduced, how they relate to what you have

already learned, and how you will use them in the future. How was the video able to illustrate the concepts to improve your understanding?

In a well-developed essay, discuss the math concepts of the video and how the video impacted your understanding of those concepts. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

## Mathematics - Simplifying the Complex

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 quot. **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** Quotation By S. Gudder  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

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“The essence of mathematics is not to make simple things complicated, but to make complicated things simple.”—S. Gudder

In a well-developed essay, explain how mathematics has been used to make complicated things simple. Be sure to provide specific details and examples as a part of your explanation.

## Mathematics in Music

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 quot. **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** Quotation By Gottfried Leibniz  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

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“Music is the pleasure the human mind experiences from counting without being aware that it is counting.”—Gottfried Leibniz

In a well-developed essay, explain how both the composition and performance of music utilize mathematical concepts. Be sure to provide specific details and examples.

## Memorial Fence

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** “Memorial Fence” Provided by Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

Every picture tells a story. In a well-developed essay, describe what this photo means to you.

## Methods of Heat Transfer in HVAC Systems

**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

In a well-developed, organized essay, discuss the three methods of heat transfer: conduction, convection, and radiation. Explain where each method is used to transfer heat within a heating or refrigeration system. Lastly, describe a BTU and how it is relevant to heating.

## Methods of Transporting Oil: Benefits and Risks

**Prompt Source(s):** 5 **Source Lexile Range:** 1180L-1520L

- Source One:** "Methods of Transportation" By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1180L-1520L
  
- Source Two:** "A Disaster in Alaska" By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1180L-1520L
  
- Source Three:** Excerpt from "What GAO Found" published 21 Aug. 2014 By the Government Accountability Office (GAO)  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1180L-1520L
  
- Source Four:** "GAO - Watchdog Report: Oil and Gas Transportation" podcast of audio interview by the *GAO Watchdog Report* staff with Frank Rusco, Director of Natural Resources and Environment  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1180L-1520L
  
- Source Five:** "Cost of Oil Transportation Methods" By Vantage Learning  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1180L-1520L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

The need for energy is a demanding one. Although there are many ways to harvest energy, the United States primarily relies on fossil fuels, such as oil. In addition to providing people with heat to warm their homes, the oil industry produces millions of jobs. Oil is used as a primary energy resource because it is easily transported and stored. Yet as long as humans continue to extract oil from the earth and transport it around the world, accidents will occur that release toxic substances into the environment and threaten lives. From damaged, ocean-going tanker ships to train

derailments and pipeline accidents, resulting spills have fueled the controversy over methods for transporting these energy products.

After reading about the ways that oil is transported in the United States, write a multi-paragraph essay in which you analyze information/data on the benefits and risks of multiple methods for transporting oil in the United States. Be sure to include evidence from sources to support your analysis and cite the text.

## Nail Disorders and Diseases: Care Plans and Treatments

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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Jennifer has been a nail technician for more than 20 years, assisting clients with nail disorders in order to help them develop home maintenance nail care plans.

Write a multi-paragraph essay that identifies whether the three clients, listed below, have nail conditions that are characterized as disorders or diseases. Once identified, provide a professional care plan that will restore each client's nails to a healthy condition. Develop a regimen to help each client enjoy long-term healthy nails.

### Client Nail Issues:

- a. Mrs. Jones developed a dark purplish spot that is visible on the surface of the nail plate.
- b. Rick has nails that seem to curve into the sides of his fingers. At times, he is in pain and the area can be sensitive.
- c. Sabrina has whitish discoloration spots on her nail plates.

## Native American Languages: Navajo Code Talkers - A Linguistic Legacy

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 4	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> 1100L-1200L
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**Source One:** “National Navajo Code Talkers Day” By the *U.S. Department of the Interior* staff

**Source Lexile Level:** 1100L-1200L

**Source Two:** “Fighting Words” By the *Corona-Norco Unified School District (CNUSD)* staff

**Source Lexile Level:** 1100L-1200L

**Source Three:** **Excerpt from “Native Words, Native Warriors: Chapter 4 - Code Talking | Intelligence and Bravery”** By the *National Museum of the American Indian* staff

**Source Lexile Level:** 1100L-1200L

**Source Four:**

**Excerpt from “Navajo Code Talkers and the Unbreakable Code”**

By the *Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)* staff

**Source Lexile Level:**

1100L-1200L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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The Foreign Language Club at your school is currently researching how speakers of different languages use language to communicate. Your assignment is to write an explanatory research article explaining why and how the United States' military used the Native American Navajo language to create a secret military communication code during World War II. You will present your article to the club during the upcoming Cultural Fair. You found **four** sources about the Navajo language and the Navajo codes to use for your research. In your article, explain why the Navajo language was ideal for this military code and how it was used.

Review each of the **four** sources and select the most relevant information to develop a thesis/controlling idea about the Navajo codes. Then, write a multi-paragraph explanatory article about the Navajo codes. Clearly organize your article and elaborate your ideas. Reference the source title or number when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing evidence from the sources.

## News Through New Media

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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“Extra! Extra! Read all about it!” In classic films, the local newsboy sells newspapers at the corner with those words. In the past century, the delivery of news has changed dramatically. News we receive in newspapers is “old” news because of the immediate dissemination of news through the Internet and television. What media do you rely on to get the breaking news? How does the reporting of local news differ from national news?

In a well-developed essay, discuss the impact of the change in news dissemination on today's society. Use facts and details to support your discussion.

## Nourishment of the Cell

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Think about how you feed yourself. You take in solid and liquid nourishment for energy and growth. You are fairly selective in what you eat and drink. In reality, you are feeding the billions of cells that make up your body. Write a narrative about how living cells are nourished. What parts of the cell are responsible for selecting only certain molecules

and rejecting others? What specialized chemicals are produced by the cell to break down food molecules into substances suitable for cellular nourishment?

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## Obama's Inaugural Address as Inspiration

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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<b>Source One:</b>	“Inaugural Address” By President Barack Hussein Obama
<b>Source Lexile Level:</b>	N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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In President Barack Obama's inaugural address, his intent was to capture this moment in history to invoke Americans to accept responsibility and work toward again making the United States a beacon to the world. Of the inspirational and instructional words in Obama's speech, which have made a lasting impression on you? How will these words change your life?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss Obama's inaugural address and its impact on your future.

## Obsessions

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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An obsession is defined as a compulsive, often unreasonable preoccupation with a fixed idea or an unwanted feeling or emotion, often accompanied by symptoms of anxiety. Many people experience or know someone with an obsession. Do you know or have you read about someone with an obsession? How does this person's obsession impact those around him/her? How do you think someone with an obsession can be helped?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss an obsession you may have experienced, witnessed, or read about and its impact on the obsessive person and others in his/her life. Be sure to include specific examples of this person's behavior and what help, if any, this person has received to deal with the obsessive behavior.

## Person You Have Studied

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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poem “Dulce et Decorum Est,” one of the great World War I (WWI) poems, paints a vivid picture of the horrors of war from a soldier's perspective.

After reading and researching the poem “Dulce et Decorum Est,” write a multi-paragraph informational/explanatory essay about how the author's experiences in WWI influenced his perspective on war. Be sure to identify the author's perspective on war and explain how the events of WWI influenced this perspective. Remember to use multiple sources to inform your response.

## Perspectives on Race

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Race can be defined as a group of individuals who share a common culture or history. As members of society, we interact with people from different races all the time. We form opinions from our personal experiences and from the stories we hear from our family members as well. What perspectives have family members shared with you about race? Do their perspectives align with what you think about people from other backgrounds? If so, how? If not, how do the perspectives differ?

In a multi-paragraph essay, explain your family members' perspectives on race. Then, compare and contrast your family members' perspectives about race with your own. Be sure to include specific details that support your ideas so the readers can fully understand your family members' perspectives on race.

## Phylogenetic Classification

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Phylogenetic trees graphically represent evolutionary relationships between animal groups based on their physical and genetic characteristics. An understanding of these relationships provides data on evolution, information on extinct species, and the basis for classification.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the use of a phylogenetic tree to further our understanding of the relationships between animal groups. Include scientific facts and examples to support your discussion.

## Piping in the HVAC Industry

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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In a well-developed, organized essay, explain the types of piping used in the HVAC trade. Your essay should explain the methods used to connect tubing, such as flair, solder, and braze. In addition, explain the procedure for setting up torches, soldering tubing, and brazing.

## Plato's View of Knowledge

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 quot. **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** Quotation By Plato  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

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“And what, Socrates, is the food of the soul? Surely, I said, knowledge is the food of the soul.”—Plato

In a detailed essay, describe what you believe Plato meant about the importance of knowledge, when he made the statement above to his friend Socrates.

## Positive Outcome from Failure

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 quot. **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:** Quotation By Barack Obama  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

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“...people succeed because they understand that you can't let your failures define you- you have to let them teach you. You have to let them show you what to do differently next time.”

—President Barack Obama, Broadcasted Speech, September 8, 2009

Reflecting on this quote from President Obama's speech, think of a time when the lessons learned from a failure led to a more positive outcome. Be sure to include specific, relevant details and examples so readers can picture the situation in their minds.

## Poverty and Equality - Past and Present

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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As a historian, you have been tasked with researching poverty and equality in America to see if the problems of the Gilded Age (i.e., the late 1800s through the early 1900s) persist today. Once you have formed your opinion, write an article for the Journal of American History that compares and contrasts the poverty and inequality of the past with the realities of the present. Support your opinion with evidence from documents used in your research.

## Power: Attaining, Maintaining, and Losing It

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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There are many examples in history of individuals or groups attaining, maintaining, and losing power. How did these groups or individuals rise to power? What led to the downfall of some and the success of others?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss how power is attained, maintained, and lost. Include specific examples from history to support your discussion.

## Practical and Future Uses for Capacitors

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Capacitors use conductors and insulators in the form of dielectrics to store energy. Capacitors are found in most electronics, such as to supply backup energy when changing batteries. Although currently the amount of energy that can be stored is relatively small, plans for future uses of capacitors include quick cell phone recharging.

In a detailed essay, describe a capacitor and its construction, explain how it works, and discuss possible uses for it. Include appropriate scientific terminology and facts in the description and explanation.

## Predator-Prey Relationships

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Predator-prey relationships can be subject to coevolution and can result in disastrous effects to an ecosystem if disturbed. The adaptation of the prey species to defend against predators ranges from morphological defenses to protective coloration. The loss of a prey or predator species can disrupt an entire ecosystem and have economic ramifications.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss predator-prey relationships, including defensive adaptations by prey and the effects of disruption of that relationship on an ecosystem. Include scientific facts and examples to support your discussion.

## Press Release on Gregor Mendel's Findings

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Modern genetic understanding can be traced to the early work of Gregor Mendel. Write a press release outlining Mendel's findings and contributions concerning pea-plant genetics.

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## Principles of Electrostatics

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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The differences between electric forces and fields and potential energy and potential depend on the charged particles in a system. Electric forces can exist only when there are two or more charged particles in proximity. Likewise, potential energy can exist only if there are two or more charged bodies in proximity.

In a detailed essay, explain the differences between electric forces, electric fields, potential energy, and potential. Use appropriate scientific terminology and examples to illustrate the concepts.

## Professionalism

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Professionalism is the cornerstone of any workplace and is essential for any employee striving to advance their career. In a well-developed, organized essay, describe professionalism and why it is important in all industries. Include a detailed description of what professionalism looks like in the workplace and on social media and discuss the potential repercussions of unprofessional behavior for both the employer and the employee.









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Excitement always surrounds the start of a new sports season. Every team dreams of winning a championship. Writers can use the past performance of a team-coupled with information about current players and performance trends-to predict how a team will perform over the course of a season.

Attend an upcoming pre-season practice at your school, and interview the coach about expectations for the upcoming season. Ask the coach about which areas the team has improved in the most since last year. Ask which areas they are still working to improve. Combine those details with the facts and statistics you've researched from the previous season to predict how the team will do this year. To review an example of a preview, you can go to the DS Report Season Preview example.

## Senior Profiles

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**Prompt Source(s):** 2 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

**Source One:**

**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

**Source Two:**

**Source Lexile Level:** N/A “DigitalSports Style Guide” Provided by Vantage Learning

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Senior leadership is critical to the success of a high school sports team. Often, the most influential seniors aren't the ones who get the most playing time. The team leader can instead be someone who works hard every day in practice and is a positive presence on the sidelines.

Attend a sports practice or game at your school and ask the coach which non-starting senior provides the most leadership. Then, interview one of the underclassmen on the team to find out what that player's dedication and leadership has meant to him or her. Is it the senior's words or actions that motivate the team the most?

Write about that senior's most significant contributions to the team and what his or her dedication has meant to teammates. To see an example of an article that is similar to a profile, you can click on the DS Reporter Feature Story example.



## Sense of Belonging

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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In order to feel a sense of belonging, one must be comfortable and secure within themselves and their environment. What other factors help someone feel a strong sense of belonging?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the factors that provide people with a sense of belonging. Include details and examples to support your discussion.

## Significance of the Project Apollo Space Missions

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Prompt Source(s): 5 Source Lexile Range: 950L-1400L

**Source One:** Excerpt from “**Project Apollo: A Retrospective Analysis**” By the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Source Lexile Level:** 1310L

**Source Two:** Excerpt from “**Special Message to the Congress on Urgent National Needs**” By President John F. Kennedy

**Source Lexile Level:** 1350L

**Source Three:** “**Telephone Conversation with the Apollo 11 Astronauts on the Moon**” By the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Source Lexile Level:** 1340L

**Source Four:** “**Letter from Vietnam Soldier**” By David C. Maloney

**Source Lexile Level:** 990L

**Source Five:** “**Human Spaceflight: The Kennedy Legacy**” By the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Source Lexile Level:** 1140L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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In 1961, President John F. Kennedy stood boldly before Congress and proclaimed,

“I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth.”

Kennedy acknowledged that this ambitious goal had potential risks, costs, and competition. However, America forged ahead with Project Apollo, and the first astronauts landed on the moon in 1969.

Read and analyze the resources about Project Apollo. Carefully consider the reasons why the project was initiated, as well as the challenges, advantages, and disadvantages

inherent in such an undertaking. Did the significance of the project live up to the world's hopes and expectations?

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you discuss the significance of the Project Apollo space missions. Be sure to provide specific details and facts from the resources to support your ideas.

## Sketch of an Artist

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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Using books, the Internet, or other resources, research the life of an artist. What important events shaped the life of this artist? What makes him or her unique?

In a well-developed essay, discuss this artist's background and describe his or her artwork. What is your opinion of the artist's work?

## Slavery and the Declaration of Independence

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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**Source One:** “The Declaration of Independence” First Draft By Thomas Jefferson  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

Source(s) not provided due to copyright law and/or length of source(s).  
 Teachers should provide access to the specified source(s).

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“He (King George) has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, capturing and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. . . . He has (stopped) every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce determining to keep open a market where (people) should be bought and sold....”—Thomas Jefferson

The paragraph above, included in the first draft of the Declaration of Independence submitted by Thomas Jefferson to the Congress, was struck from the final draft. How might the course of history have been different if this paragraph had been included?

In a well-developed essay, discuss how the course of history would have changed if the Declaration of Independence had included Jefferson's paragraph about slavery. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

## “Starry Night”: A Painting of Intrigue

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Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source One: **Starry Night** By Vincent Van Gogh  
Source Lexile Level: N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, painted in 1889, is his most famous work of art. The image depicts a night sky with stars and swirling clouds, with a large mysterious structure to the left of the painting and a residential town underneath the night sky. Critics and viewers alike have found this painting intriguing for many years. What do you think makes this painting so intriguing? What makes Van Gogh's use of imagery, style, and colors so unique?

In a detailed essay, explain how the specific features of Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, including its style and colors, have contributed to its continued popularity and public adoration and fascination for so many years.

## State vs. Federal Government

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Show that you are able to use the process of “compare and contrast.” Write a short essay to compare and contrast the federal government in Washington, D.C., with your state's government. The basic points in your essay are size, structure, and the powers of each government. Add any other details that will enhance your compare-and-contrast project.

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## Studying the Universe

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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The study of the Universe is exciting and intriguing because much is still unknown and unexplored. Did an asteroid cause the extinction of dinosaurs? What happens when a star dies?

In a detailed essay, describe the aspect of the Universe that you would like to study as a scientist. Include why this subject interests you and ways in which you would study it.

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In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the causes of population growth and decline and the impact of the rate of population growth on the overall health of a country. Use facts and examples to support your discussion.

## The Importance of Math in Travel

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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Transportation is one of the most important aspects of modern society. Math plays an important role in planning for and traveling effectively. In a detailed essay, discuss some of the important ways that math is used in travel.

## The Life in Your Years

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 1 quot.	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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<b>Source One:</b>	<b>Quotation</b> By Abraham Lincoln
<b>Source Lexile Level:</b>	N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

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Consider this quote by Abraham Lincoln:

“And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.”

Lincoln did not have the opportunity to live to a very old age, but the “life in his years” made a profound and lasting impact on the world.

Think about someone, other than Lincoln, whose “life in his/her years” left a lasting mark on the world. It may be a famous person or even someone you know personally. In a multi-paragraph essay, inform your readers about this person and what aspect of his/her life represents the sentiment expressed in Lincoln's quote. Be sure to include specific details and examples from this person's life so your readers get a clear picture of your subject's connection to Lincoln's quote.

## The Lives of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 4	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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<b>Source One:</b>	<b>“The Life of Harriet Tubman”</b> By New York History Net
<b>Source Lexile Level:</b>	N/A

<b>Source Two:</b>	<b>“Harriet Tubman”</b> By Eloise Greenfield
<b>Source Lexile Level:</b>	N/A



**Source Three:** “Frederick Douglass” By the National Park Service  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

**Source Four:** “Frederick Douglass” By Paul Laurence Dunbar  
**Source Lexile Level:** N/A

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman are two of the most famous African Americans in history. Both were prominent abolitionists who escaped slavery and helped lead numerous other slaves to freedom during the time of the Civil War. Although Douglass and Tubman share many similarities, they also have some differences between them, such as in the way in which they escaped slavery.

In a well-developed essay, compare and contrast Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, explaining their similarities and differences. Provide facts and examples to support your comparisons.

## The Many Types of Waves

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Waves are defined as traveling, standing, sound, and light. They can interfere, diffract, reflect, and refract. We use these different types of waves and their properties in many ways, from mirrors and eyeglasses to speakers and amplifiers.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss waves, their properties, and the application of these properties in our everyday lives. Include appropriate scientific terminology and details to ensure a comprehensive discussion.

## The Renewal of America

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	1000L-1200L
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**Source One:** Excerpt from the “Inaugural Address” presented on 20 Jan. 1993 By President Bill Clinton  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1130L

[Click here to view the source\(s\) for this prompt.](#)

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Your history class has been researching ways to improve the current political, economic, and social status of America and its people. For your research paper, you decide to address ways in which we can improve upon American society. During your research, you come across former President Clinton's Inaugural Address, which

focused on the “Renewal of America.” In preparation for writing your report, read and analyze his speech about changing America. Then use relevant information from the speech to write your report.

## The Shaping of America

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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There have been many people and events that have shaped America's past and present. Although we tend to think of notable historic events and famous people, our own family members have been involved in shaping our country. What has happened in your life or in the life of one of your family members that tells a story about the shaping of America? Why do you think this story is important in telling the history of the country?

In a well-developed essay, describe an event that you or someone in your family experienced that tells a story of the history of America. Be sure to include details about the time period, facts, examples, and quotes from your family members for support.

## The Three Components of Cell Theory

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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In your own words, explain the three components of the cell theory, which is a basic concept of biology.

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## The Tragedy of Commons

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b> 1	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b> N/A
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<b>Source One:</b>	“The Tragedy of Commons” By Garrett Hardin
<b>Source Lexile Level:</b>	N/A

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Teachers should provide access to the specified source(s).

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In an article first published in the journal *Science* in 1968, Garrett Hardin used the phrase “Tragedy of Commons” to describe situations in which individuals, acting in their own self-interest, ultimately deplete shared resources to the detriment of all involved,

including themselves. Hardin's theory concerns situations in which it is not technology but morality that must be used to resolve the conflict.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss an example that illustrates Hardin's "Tragedy of Commons". Include the ramifications of the choices of the individuals involved and the applicability of solutions to the "Tragedy of Commons" to modern issues with finite resources. Be sure to include facts and examples to support your discussion.

## The Value of Video on Different Countries

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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While photos and stories about other countries give us a glimpse into the lives of the people of that culture, video enables an even greater view. With video, we can experience interactions between people, entry into unfamiliar places, and participation in events as if they are happening right before our eyes. How did viewing a video of another country supplement your understanding of that country and its people?

In a well-developed essay, discuss the video on another country and describe how it supplemented your understanding of that country. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

## The Year in Review

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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The coming of a new year always prompts nostalgia and a look back at all the things that happened during the current year. Societal, economic, cultural, political, and other kinds of events can have a major impact in just one year. What changes have affected you?

In a well-developed essay, discuss the highlights of economic, social, cultural, political, and world events that impacted people during the course of the year. Be sure to include specific events and illustrate their impact on society.

## Types of Electric Circuits

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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In a well-developed, organized essay, discuss parallel, series, and combination electrical circuits. For parallel and series circuits, include how the resistance is

calculated and what voltages would be found at each load of the circuit. For combination circuits, be sure to include how the loads function within.

## Uniquely American Benjamin Franklin

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**Prompt Source(s):** 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 1000L-1400L

**Source One:** *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* By Benjamin Franklin  
**Source Lexile Level:** 1370L

Source(s) not provided due to copyright law and/or length of source(s).  
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In *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, Franklin describes his life experiences through the jobs he held, inventions he created, publications he printed, and political and social philosophies he developed. Franklin has since become an American icon of the period.

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe the characteristics of Franklin's personality and lifetime accomplishments that make him uniquely American. Include facts and details to support your description.

## Use of a Hydrostatic System to Stop a Car

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Hydrostatic systems have interesting properties relative to pressure and force. These properties are put to use in the design of automobile hydraulic brake systems.

In a detailed essay, explain the properties of hydrostatic systems, which make it possible to use pressure on a brake pedal to stop a car. Use appropriate terminology and details to illustrate your explanation.

## Uses of Nuclear Physics

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0 **Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Nuclear physics developed with our understanding of the particles composing an atom. Imaging for medical and security purposes, energy production, and military weapons have been developed using advances in nuclear physics.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the concept of nuclear physics and practical applications of the properties of the atom. Use appropriate scientific terminology and details in your discussion.

## Using a Musical Instrument to Produce a Mood

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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You are composing a piece of music and wish to convey a certain mood by the sound of the music. Choose a mood that you wish for your music to convey to the listener. Describe how you would use the different timbres of the instruments to produce this mood through sound.

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## Using Geometry to Plan a Memorial Park

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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You are on the Buildings and Grounds Committee in your city and have been assigned the task of creating a memorial park for veterans who have served in the community. The park will consist of a playground, bathrooms, a parking lot, a memorial fountain, and a spotlight for the fountain. The playground, bathrooms, and parking lot will be connected by sidewalks in the shape of a triangle. The memorial fountain will be placed within this triangle, equidistant from the sidewalks that connect the playground, bathrooms, and parking lot. A spotlight for the fountain will be placed equidistant from the playground, bathrooms, and parking lot. A canopy that will be used for the dedication of the park will cover the area between the playground, bathrooms, and parking lot. The balance point of the canopy must be determined for the center pole or the canopy will collapse.

After determining the centroid, incenter, and circumcenter of the triangle of sidewalks connecting the playground, bathrooms, and parking lot, suggest which of these three points would be the best place for the memorial fountain, spotlight, and canopy's center pole. In a multi-paragraph essay, report your findings for the location of the three objects, supporting their locations with the principles of geometry.

## Using Math to Determine the Better Weekly Pay Rate

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Read the math problem.

Write an essay in which you argue whether it is better to earn a flat rate of \$400 per week or to earn a rate of \$9.50 per hour. Include what factors might make one option better than the other.

In a detailed essay, discuss the strategy you would use to solve the problem. A complete essay will include the steps you would perform, the order in which you would perform them, and the reason you would solve the problem using this strategy. Although a correct answer is important, it is more important that you discuss the process of solving the problem with as much detail as possible.

## Using Probability to Determine Who Goes First

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Read the math problem.

Four friends want to play a game. In order to decide who starts first, two proposals are made.

Kristal proposes that they assign everyone a number and take turns rolling a six-sided die. The player whose number comes up would start the game, and if a 5 or 6 comes up, they roll again.

Clay proposes that they flip 3 coins. If 3 heads come up, Clark would start. If 2 heads come up, Clay would start. If 2 tails come up, Kortney would start. And if 3 tails come up, Kristal would start.

Which of the proposals gives everyone a fair chance of starting the game? Explain your reasoning.

In a detailed essay, discuss the strategy you would use to solve the problem. A complete essay will include the steps you would perform, the order in which you would perform them, and the reason you would solve the problem using this strategy. Although a correct answer is important, it is more important that you discuss the process of solving the problem with as much detail as possible.

## Using Ratios to Determine the Number of Marbles in a Bag

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Prompt Source(s): 0 Source Lexile Range: N/A

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Read the math problem.

A bag contains a mix of red, yellow, and blue marbles. The ratio of blue to red marbles is 3 to 2, and the ratio of yellow to red marbles is 1 to 4. When 8 blue marbles, 8 red marbles, and 8 yellow marbles are added to the bag, the ratio of blue to red marbles becomes 4 to 3. How many yellow marbles are in the bag after the additional marbles are added? Explain the steps you took to find your answer.

In a detailed essay, discuss the strategy you would use to solve the problem. A complete essay will include the steps you would perform, the order in which you would perform them, and the reason you would solve the problem using this strategy. Although a correct answer is important, it is more important that you discuss the process of solving the problem with as much detail as possible.

## Using Triangles to Find a Plane

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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The president of the United States has asked you to assist in finding a plane that has gone down over the Indian Ocean. You have been given the task of choosing a tracking system company to find the plane. You want to locate the plane as quickly as possible.

There are four tracking system companies available for use. Each company uses satellites that will take certain measurements to create a triangle around the possible crash site.

The triangle will be formed from the following three points:

1. The airport from which the plane departed
2. The point where the plane made a counterclockwise turn
3. The plane's last known position

Analyze the sample data given by each company to select the one that will find the plane most efficiently. In a multi-paragraph essay, justify your selection of the company to the president. Use the results of your analysis of each company's sample data to support your justification.

Below is sample data given by each company:

### Company 1:

Acute Satellite Inc. can provide the following information by using their satellites:

An airplane takes off from Kuala Lumpur going northwest at an angle of  $73^\circ$ . The plane turns counterclockwise  $35^\circ$ . The last known angle is a counterclockwise turn of  $72^\circ$ .

### Company 2:

Right Distance Inc. can provide the following information by using their satellites:

An airplane takes off from Kuala Lumpur going north at an angle of  $90^\circ$ . The plane travels 1,250 km, and then turns counterclockwise  $35^\circ$ .

**Company 3:**

Butte Inc. can provide the following information by using their satellites:

An airplane takes off from Kuala Lumpur going northwest at an angle of  $38^\circ$ . The plane travels 2,500 km, and then turns counterclockwise and travels another 1,750 km.

**Company 4:**

San Antonio Straights Inc. can provide the following information by using their satellites:

An airplane takes off from Kuala Lumpur going northeast at an angle of  $121^\circ$ . The plane travels 2,850 km. The company can give you the distance from the plane's last known location and the airport, which is 4,050 km.

## Value of Political Gridlock

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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The term “political gridlock” can be best described as a time when certain forms of legislation are argued, yet the opinions are evenly divided amongst the two different parties. This leads to an impasse in which little change occurs. Many political historians believe that the Founding Fathers created the three branches of government to force scrutiny of any proposed legislation deemed too radical.

Today, many Americans have grown frustrated with political gridlock, believing that there is too little change in laws that are introduced. Many feel that unless either the Republicans or Democrats control the majority of the branches, little to no change will occur.

In a detailed essay, describe whether you believe political gridlock is a way of keeping the government running smoothly, or if it is keeping America from truly advancing.

## Weaknesses Caused by the Articles of Confederation

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Following the American Revolution, the American people were very fearful of a strong central government like that of England. As a result, the first American government, which was established under the Articles of Confederation, was so weak it could not



survive. After looking over the provisions of the Articles, write a description of three main weaknesses of the government that the Articles established. In separate paragraphs, write about each weakness and the problems caused by that weakness.

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## What are Tangents and Secants?

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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What are tangents and secants in reference to a circle? What facts do we know about them?

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## What Does FOIL Stand For?

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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What does FOIL stand for? Explain how you would use it on  $(a + b)(c - d)$ .

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## What is a Fraction?

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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In your own words, explain what a fraction is and give an example.

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## What is History?

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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As a student in a history class, you will need to think about and be able to answer some basic questions regarding history. Show that you are ready to begin thinking like a student of history by answering these four questions in paragraph form: What exactly is history? Is history the truth? Where does history come from? Why should anyone study history?

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## What is Humor?

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**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Individuals define humor in different ways. What may be funny to one person, may not be funny to another. What do you find amusing? What makes you laugh?

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you examine your own sense of humor. Be sure to support your analysis by including specific examples of what you have read or heard that you found funny.

## What is Order of Operations?

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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What is order of operations? How do we use it?

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## What to Look For When Choosing a College

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**Prompt Source(s):** 0

**Source Lexile Range:** N/A

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Now that your high school graduation is quickly approaching, you need to start thinking about college. However, the many different types of schools make it difficult to select one. There are four-year colleges, community colleges, large, public universities, and

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small, private, liberal arts colleges, among other types of schools. How would you go about choosing the college that is right for you? How important are size, location, cost, available programs, and campus life?

In a detailed essay, describe what is important to you when choosing a college and why it's important. Include examples and details to support your description.

## Why Do You Need to Create Art?

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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Why do you, as a young artist, “need” to create art?

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## Why Study the Declaration of Independence?

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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There are many important documents in the history of the United States. Of those, the Declaration of Independence is considered one of the most important. Why is this document so important? Why do we need to study it?

In a well-developed essay, discuss why it is important that we study and understand the ideas and principles of the Declaration of Independence. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

## Your Body's Fitness Assessment

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<b>Prompt Source(s):</b>	0	<b>Source Lexile Range:</b>	N/A
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On fitness assessment days, you use your portfolio to document your BMI, height, and weight. What do these scores tell you about your body?

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## Index for Source-based and Non-source-based Prompts

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The appendices that follow provide lists of prompts with different types of sources. These appendices are intended to assist teachers in more easily identifying and locating prompts in the catalog. Each appendix includes only the titles of prompts from this catalog. Prompts are arranged in alphabetical order in the catalog by type (IntelliMetric™ or Pilot), as indicated in the Table of Contents. The appendices are divided into two main categories: source-based (including research-based and quotation-based prompts) and non-source-based prompts. The first three appendices are for source-based prompts; the last appendix is for non-source-based prompts. The following are notes pertaining to the definitions and content specifications of source-based and non-source based prompts.

### **Source-based Prompts:**

- Source-based prompts are research-based and often require sources (whether specified or not) and include quotation-based writing tasks.
- Some source-based prompts provide or indicate specific sources while others require students and/or teachers to conduct their own research to address a prompt topic.
- Quotation-based prompts require reference to, analysis of, and/or interpretation of a particular quotation.
  - Most quotation-based prompts integrate quotations into the prompt task rather than offer the quotation as a separate source.
  - Quotations are typically too brief compared to most sources or excerpts from works that are more extensive; thus they are usually not considered a formal ‘source’ for students to use in addressing a prompt task.
  - To prevent inaccuracy, Lexile levels for quotations are not provided due to the brevity of most quotations.
- The types of sources used in source-based prompts vary greatly by prompt and can include multimedia and text-based sources.

### **Non-source-based Prompts:**

- Non-source-based prompts do not require or necessitate research and/or source-based evidence to complete the writing task.
- Most non-source-based prompts are typically knowledge, experience, and/or opinion-based prompt tasks.

## Appendix I: Source-based Prompts (Sources Provided)

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### IntelliMetric™

#### *Bullying*

*Choosing the Right College Recruiting Poster*  
*Comparing Marketing Messages*  
*Effects of Emotion on Behavior*  
*Effects of Television Viewing on Young People*  
*Speeches Discussing Our Environment*  
*The Challenges and Uses of Native American Languages*  
*The Poster Boys of World War II*

### Pilot

*Acme Company's Hiring Process*  
*Adult Mortality Rates*  
*Analysis of "A More Perfect Union" Speech*  
*Analysis of Program Enrollment Trends*  
*Ancient Civilizations: The Government of the Ancient Roman Republic*  
*Billy Joel's "Allentown": Stories of Our Cities*  
*Business (Hotel Scenario Part 1): Complaint Letter*  
*Business: Dress Code E-mail (Part 2)*  
*Call to Action in President Obama's Inaugural Speech*  
*Celebrating Fan Traditions*  
*Choosing Advertising Media for Two Businesses*  
*Compare and Contrast Newspaper Headline Articles*  
*Comparison of "Imagine" and "We Are the World"*  
*Father and Son in Chapin's "Cat's in the Cradle"*  
*Game-Changing Performances*  
*Gender Inequality Seen in No Doubt's "Just a Girl"*  
*Harriet Tubman: The Cost of Liberty*  
*Healthy Life Expectancy*  
*Height, Weight, and Body Mass Index*  
*How is America a Place and an Idea?*  
*International Tourist Destinations*  
*Interview a Player*  
*John Henry and the Struggle of the American Worker*  
*Living for the City": A Look at Poverty and Racism*  
*Marine Biology: Understanding Whale Communication*  
*Martin Luther King Jr.*  
*Memorial Fence*  
*Methods of Transporting Oil: Benefits and Risks*  
*Native American Languages: Navajo Code Talkers - A Linguistic Legacy*  
*Obama's Inaugural Address as Inspiration*  
*Personal Response to Monet's "Water Lilies"*  
*Perspective on War in "Dulce et Decorum Est"*  
*Profile a Coach*  
*Season Preview*



*Senior Profiles*

*Significance of the Project Apollo Space Missions*

*Starry Night": A Painting of Intrigue*

*The Lives of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman*

*The Renewal of America*

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## Appendix II: Source-based Prompts (Sources Not Provided)

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### IntelliMetric™

*Acting on the State of the Union Address*

#### Pilot

*American Experience Video Review*

*Application of Newton's Laws of Motion*

*Black Like Me: Then and Now*

*Duality of Humankind*

*Future of an Endangered Species*

*Impact of the Declaration of Independence on History*

*Slavery and the Declaration of Independence*

*The Tragedy of Commons*

*Uniquely American Benjamin Franklin*

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## Appendix III: Quotation-based Prompts

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### IntelliMetric™

*Failure before Success*  
*Growing Towards Maturity*

### Pilot

*Does Your Environment Define You or Do You Define Your Environment?*  
*Formula for Intelligence*  
*Mathematics - Simplifying the Complex*  
*Mathematics in Music*  
*Plato's View of Knowledge*  
*Positive Outcome from Failure*  
*Response to a Will Rogers Quote*  
*Science Without Religion and Vice Versa*  
*Taking Advantage of an Opportunity*  
*The Life in Your Years*

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## Appendix IV: Non-source-based Prompts (Sources Not Required)

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### IntelliMetric™

*A Dinner Menu*  
*A Healthy Change*  
*A Letter to Your Grandchildren: The World Today*  
*A Moment in History*  
*A Revolution's Effect on Society*  
*Advice to a Presidential Candidate*  
*African Imperialism*  
*American Presidents*  
*An Ethical Dilemma: Job Recommendation*  
*Biography of an Author*  
*Business Letter to a Restaurant*  
*Career Goals*  
*Cause and Effect in the Revolutionary War*  
*Change A Historical Event*  
*Character Traits*  
*Choose a New Genetic Trait*  
*Choosing a Speaker for Your School*  
*College Admissions: Controversial Social Issues*  
*College Admissions: Financial Planning*  
*College Admissions: Personal Statement*  
*Community Service Requirement*  
*Creating a Budget*  
*Crossing the Rubicon: A Fateful Decision*  
*Describing a Meaningful Holiday*  
*Designing the Ideal School Building*  
*Effect of the Black Death in Middle Ages Europe*  
*Effects of Technology*  
*Effects of the Automobile*  
*Features of a Major World Religion*  
*First Day on the Job*  
*Global Warming*  
*Handling Disruptive Behavior*  
*Healthy Relationships*  
*Helping a Friend in Math Class*  
*Historical Periods in Time*  
*Importance of Family*  
*In-School Music*  
*Making Science Fiction a Reality*  
*Memorable Places*  
*One-Hundred Years of Change*  
*Owning a Business*  
*Perceptions of Prejudice*  
*Power Sources in the Year 2050*

*Qualities in Adults You Admire*  
*Self-Evaluation Reflection*  
*The Definition of Integrity*  
*The Future of Your Chosen Career*  
*The Holocaust: Systems of Persecution*  
*The Ideal Winter Break*  
*The Person You Most Admire*  
*The Sense You Could Live Without*  
*What Decade Would You Like to Experience?*  
*What Makes a Person an American?*  
*World War I: A Turning Point*  
*Your Goals*  
*Your Legacy*  
*Your Unique Name*

## Pilot

*A Challenged Belief*  
*A Meaningful Contribution*  
*A Significant Moment in Culinary History*  
*A Skill in Dental Assisting*  
*A Value in Which You Believe*  
*Analysis of a Source of News*  
*Business (Hotel Scenario Part 2): Housekeeping E-mail*  
*Business (Hotel Scenario Part 3): Pest Control Letter*  
*Business Letter to a Corporate Office*  
*Business: Auto Service Follow-up Letter*  
*Business: Develop a Dress Code Policy (Part 1)*  
*Business: Dress Code Violation Notice (Part 4)*  
*Business: Internet Usage Policy E-mail*  
*Campaign Finance Rules Decision*  
*Can We Trust Statistics?*  
*Celebrity Politicians*  
*Change and American Reform*  
*Changing the Variables of a Pendulum's Motion*  
*Civil Rights - Kennedy Administration*  
*Civil Rights - Moderates and Militants*  
*Civil Rights - Youth*  
*Classifying Soups and Stocks*  
*Compare and Contrast Families of Organic Compounds*  
*Conservation of Linear Momentum*  
*Contaminants and Allergens*  
*Converting to a New Religion*  
*Cooking with Fats and Oils*  
*Create and Describe Electrical Circuits*  
*Dental Amalgam Restorative Procedure*  
*Description of a "Natural Leader"*

*Description of a Kinematic System*  
*Description of a Venn Diagram*  
*Designing a Workout Program for Yourself*  
*Differences Between Pyramids*  
*Different Types of Music for Different Events*  
*Disillusionment and Isolation*  
*Early American Inventions*  
*Earth Systems*  
*Economic Impact of Environmental Decisions*  
*Economic Impact of Pollution*  
*Effect of the Loss of a Species*  
*Electron Transport in Biochemical Pathways*  
*Energy Flow*  
*Evaluation of the "Era of Good Feelings"*  
*Every Culture Has a Culinary Story*  
*Evidence for Evolution*  
*Exchanging Your Right to Vote for a Comfortable Life*  
*Exercising in Your Neighborhood*  
*Explanation of a Solution to a Math Problem*  
*Faraday's and Lenz's Laws*  
*Favorite Genre*  
*Genetic Disorders*  
*Geometry in Structures*  
*Grains*  
*Hair as Forensic Evidence*  
*Hairdressing: Chemical Texture Service—Permanent Waving Scenario*  
*Hairdressing: Hair Color Scenario*  
*Hairdressing: The Chemistry of Hair Color*  
*Health and Safety Credentials*  
*Homeostatic Mechanisms*  
*How Change or Diversity has Affected Your Life*  
*How Do You Know This is a Rotation Problem?*  
*Identifying Cosmetology Industry-Ready Skills*  
*Impact of DNA Discoveries*  
*Importance of Career Fairs*  
*Important Modes of Transportation*  
*Industrialization and Imperialism*  
*Influence of Change on Revolutions*  
*Integrity in Cosmetology*  
*Jacksonian Democracy*  
*Knowledge of Historic Events*  
*Magnetic and Electric Fields Affect Each Other*  
*Managing Your Personal Finances*  
*Math Video Improves Understanding*  
*Methods of Heat Transfer in HVAC Systems*  
*Nail Disorders and Diseases: Care Plans and Treatments*  
*News Through New Media*

*Nourishment of the Cell*  
*Obsessions*  
*Person You Have Studied*  
*Perspectives on Race*  
*Phylogenetic Classification*  
*Piping in the HVAC Industry*  
*Poverty and Equality - Past and Present*  
*Power: Attaining, Maintaining, and Losing It*  
*Practical and Future Uses for Capacitors*  
*Predator-Prey Relationships*  
*Press Release on Gregor Mendel's Findings*  
*Principles of Electrostatics*  
*Professionalism*  
*Professionalism in the Culinary Industry*  
*Progressive Reform*  
*Propaganda Posters of WWI and WWII*  
*Quadrant Coloring*  
*Qualities of Our Elected Officials*  
*Reflections and Advice for the Teenage Years*  
*Relationships between Work, Energy, and Power*  
*Role of Women in WWII*  
*Science Video Provides Perspective*  
*Sense of Belonging*  
*Sketch of an Artist*  
*State vs. Federal Government*  
*Studying the Universe*  
*Successful Person in a Chosen Occupation*  
*Summer Highlights*  
*Summertime College or Career Preparation*  
*Supplies to Travel the World*  
*The American Revolution: Causes and Effects*  
*The Church in the Middle Ages*  
*The Cosmetology of a Period in Time*  
*The Effect of Public Opinion on Trials*  
*The Effects of the Watt Steam Engine*  
*The Elegance of Cell Division Processes*  
*The Holocaust: Aftermath*  
*The Human Population*  
*The Importance of Math in Travel*  
*The Many Types of Waves*  
*The Shaping of America*  
*The Three Components of Cell Theory*  
*The Value of Video on Different Countries*  
*The Year in Review*  
*Types of Electric Circuits*  
*Use of a Hydrostatic System to Stop a Car*  
*Uses of Nuclear Physics*

*Using a Musical Instrument to Produce a Mood*  
*Using Geometry to Plan a Memorial Park*  
*Using Math to Determine the Better Weekly Pay Rate*  
*Using Probability to Determine Who Goes First*  
*Using Ratios to Determine the Number of Marbles in a Bag*  
*Using Triangles to Find a Plane*  
*Value of Political Gridlock*  
*Weaknesses Caused by the Articles of Confederation*  
*What are Tangents and Secants?*  
*What Does FOIL Stand For?*  
*What is a Fraction?*  
*What is History?*  
*What is Humor?*  
*What is Order of Operations?*  
*What to Look For When Choosing a College*  
*Why Do You Need to Create Art?*  
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