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)

Table of Contents

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 Higher Education level. Each prompt aligns to Common Core and State educational standards and assessment practices expected of Higher Education 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 Healthy Change

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

We often fail to realize that the choices we make about our health can be unhealthy ones. Style 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.

Write an essay in which you describe what these changes would be and how they would benefit you and make our society a healthier one.

Designing the Ideal School Building

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

It is often said that students are in the best position to decide how a school 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.

Effects of Technology

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

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.

Everyday Dangers

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

There are some activities we perform each day, almost without thinking. Some of these activities can be very dangerous, however, if we fail to perform them properly. Think about an activity people perform on a daily basis. What makes this activity so dangerous? How could people perform it more safely?

Write an essay in which you describe an everyday activity that can be dangerous if it is not done properly and discuss how it could be performed more safely.

Making the World a Better Place to Live

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

There is certainly no shortage of problems that confront our world today: poverty, violence, and ignorance to name a few. At times, the list of problems can seem overwhelming.

Thankfully, there are many people and organizations that dedicate their lives and work to help make the world a better place. Select a person or organization that you are aware of that works to improve the lives of others. What does this person or organization do? How will this activity make the world a better place for all its inhabitants? Then, write an essay in which you describe this person or organization and discuss what it is doing to make the world a better place to live.

Memorable Places

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

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.

Power Sources in the Year 2050

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

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.

Research a Person or Group that Improves the World

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

There is certainly no shortage of problems that confront our world today: poverty, violence, and ignorance to name a few. At times, the list of problems can seem overwhelming.

Thankfully, there are many people and organizations that dedicate their lives and work to help make the world a better place. Select a person or organization that you are aware of that works to improve the lives of others. What does this person or organization do? How will this activity make the world a better place for all its inhabitants? Then, write a detailed essay in which you describe this person or organization and discuss what it is doing to make the world a better place to live. Include citations within your essay and a citations list for your sources.

Studying Abroad

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

Source One:	**"Study Abroad"** Provided by Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level:	N/A

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

Students choose to study abroad for many reasons. Think about the reasons you are considering studying abroad. Next, carefully review the two study-abroad recruiting posters. Do these posters address your reasons for wanting to study abroad in a convincing manner?

Write an essay in which you discuss how well you think these recruiting posters address your reasons for wanting to study abroad. Be sure to analyze the marketing messages in the posters as well as discuss your specific reasons for considering a study abroad program. Do you think the recruiting posters could be improved? If so, how?

The Person You Most Admire

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

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.

Pilot Prompts

An Unrecognized Athlete or Entertainer

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

While some athletes and entertainers are constantly being recognized with top honors and awards, many others do not get the recognition they deserve.

Choose an athlete or entertainer who you feel does not receive the proper acknowledgement of his or her talents and skills. In a well-developed essay, describe the skills and talents of this athlete or entertainer and why you feel this person deserves more recognition.

Critical Reasoning: Information Security

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

The following excerpt is from an announcement made by the Information Security Department of the Bertha Company:

> "The Bertha Company sells a variety of consumer goods through its online store. A recent spate of security breaches reported by many of its customers created a public outcry. Apparently, someone was able to break into the online accounting system and illegally access private customer information. The Information Security Department recently began using the "No Pass" firewall program, and reports of security breaches have fallen by 60%. It is clear that this new software has solved our information security problems and that the Bertha Company will quickly recover from the loss of public confidence."

In a well-developed essay, analyze the argument. Consider the persuasiveness of the evidence offered to support the speaker's conclusion and any underlying assumptions that are made. What weaknesses in the use of logic are evident? What information could be presented to improve the soundness of the argument?

Critical Reasoning: Raising Revenue

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

Consider the following argument that was advanced at a recent town council meeting:

> "In order to address the growing social and economic troubles of the town of Althena, we must raise additional revenue. It is clear that the best way to raise tax revenues is by permitting a slot machine parlor to open on Main Street. Last year, the city of Fenario allowed a full service casino to open on its waterfront, and the citizens of that city are now enjoying greater tax revenues than ever."

In a well-developed essay, analyze the argument. Consider the persuasiveness of the evidence offered to support the speaker's conclusion and any underlying assumptions that are made. What weaknesses in the use of logic are evident? What information could be presented to improve the soundness of the argument?

Critical Reasoning: Safe Choices

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

The Dean of Terrapin College made the following observations during an orientation speech for new students:

> "For many years, members of the community, including local homeowners, law enforcement officials, as well as concerned medical professionals, have voiced concerns about the rate of alcohol abuse among incoming freshmen. In response, for the past two years Terrapin College has had all students attend a peer counseling program called "Safe Choices" to help students choose recreational activities that don't involve alcohol. I am happy to report that this program has been an overwhelming success: While a survey of the student body two years ago revealed that 85% of the students at Terrapin consumed alcohol at least once per week, a similar survey of the current freshmen class showed that only 25% of the respondents consumed at least one alcoholic beverage each week."

In a well-developed essay, analyze the argument. Consider the persuasiveness of the evidence offered to support the speaker's conclusion and any underlying assumptions that are made. What weaknesses in the use of logic are evident? What information could be presented to improve the soundness of the argument?

Does College Expand Your Mind?

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

Source One:	**Quotation** By Robert Frost
Source Lexile Level:	N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

The famous poet, Robert Frost, once said,

"We come to college to get over our little-mindedness."

Has college expanded your mind by changing the way you view yourself or the world around you?

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you discuss Frost's quote and relate it to your own experiences in college. Be sure to support your discussion with significant details and examples.

Teamwork in the Office

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

As the pace of the office environment surges, many businesses have concluded that work is best done in teams. Unfortunately, many people have trouble working in teams because of their own egos, hidden agendas, or the fact that they are unable to cooperate with others.

Imagine your office has decided to arrange its employees into teams and you have been chosen as your team's leader. Write an essay in which you describe how you will develop your team and ensure that everyone is committed to teamwork, rather than his or her own agenda or success. Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your plan.

Technology Challenges in School

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

As the use of technology in schools continues to grow, schools are faced with many financial, educational, and practical issues. Write a multi-paragraph essay explaining what you feel are the biggest issues faced by schools implementing new technologies. Be sure to include specific examples and details to support your viewpoint.

The Difficult Duties of a Manager

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

Imagine that you are the manager of a local retail store and your employees aren't following the guidelines you have instituted for proper workplace conduct. Under what

circumstances would you fire an employee? How would you handle the actual act of letting the employee go?

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe the reasons you would fire an employee and how you would handle yourself in such a situation. Be sure to include specific details and examples for support.

The Effect of Public Opinion on Trials

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

Recently, many high-profile court cases have caught the public eye, such as the trials of O.J. Simpson, Michael Jackson, Scott Peterson, and most recently Saddam Hussein. Is it possible that increased public attention has affected the outcome of these trials?

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you discuss whether or not you think public opinion can have an effect on the verdict of a trial. Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your analysis.

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

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)

IntelliMetric™

Studying Abroad

Pilot

NA[1]

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1. **This type of prompt is not available at this time in MY Access!®. However, new prompts and IntelliMetric™ models are in development. Check back frequently for updates!**

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

IntelliMetric™

N/A[1]

Pilot

N/A[1]

1. **This type of prompt is not available at this time in MY Access!®. However, new prompts and IntelliMetric™ models are in development. Check back frequently for updates!**

Appendix III: Quotation-based Prompts

IntelliMetric™

N/A[1]

Pilot

Does College Expand Your Mind?

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1. **This type of prompt is not available at this time in MY Access!®. However, new prompts and IntelliMetric™ models are in development. Check back frequently for updates!**

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

IntelliMetric™

A Healthy Change
Designing the Ideal School Building
Effects of Technology
Everyday Dangers
Making the World a Better Place to Live
Memorable Places
Power Sources in the Year 2050
Research a Person or Group that Improves the World
The Person You Most Admire

Pilot

An Unrecognized Athlete or Entertainer
Critical Reasoning: Information Security
Critical Reasoning: Raising Revenue
Critical Reasoning: Safe Choices
Teamwork in the Office
Technology Challenges in School
The Difficult Duties of a Manager
The Effect of Public Opinion on Trials