



**Middle School
Informative/Expository
Prompt Catalog**



Middle School Informative/Expository Prompt Catalog

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 Middle School level. Each prompt aligns to Common Core and State educational standards and assessment practices expected of Middle 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.

Think of someone you have had, or whom you may like to have, as a mentor in your life. Explain the qualities this person has, or lessons he/she could share, that would influence your life in a positive way.

A New Planet

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Our solar system is home to a diverse collection of planets, including Jupiter the gas giant, dusty red Mars, and our life-abundant planet Earth. Many factors, such as atmosphere, gravity, and the surrounding moons, make every planet in our galaxy unique in its own way. If you had an opportunity to discover a planet of your own, what are some of the characteristics you would like to find on this new planet?

In a detailed essay, describe the combination of characteristics of those commonly found in our solar system that would make your planet unique.

A Prominent African American

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Martin Luther King is prominently viewed as one of the foremost American leaders and one of the most well-known African Americans. While King is popularly renowned, there are many other African Americans who have made major contributions in the worlds of science, politics, and the arts.

In a detailed essay, describe an African American that you have researched who has helped America move forward in art, science, or politics.

A Role Model

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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A role model is a person you look up to. Think about someone you look up to. Why do you consider this person a role model? Write a well-developed essay on a person you consider a role model and why you consider him or her a role model. Include facts and details to support your explanation.



A Story of Inspiration

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Inspiration can come from many places, particularly from those people who have faced daunting challenges or unusual hardships. Sometimes we look to others for encouragement and to understand how strength and perseverance can pay off in the end.

In a multi-paragraph essay, share a story of someone who inspires you. Be sure to describe what this person has done in his or her life to show strength and to encourage you.

Acts of Courage

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Most of us have had to be courageous at some point in our lives to accomplish a goal or overcome an obstacle. Write a multi-paragraph essay about a time that you showed courage. Use details and examples to explain what problem you had to overcome or what obstacle you faced and how you showed courage in dealing with the situation.

An Activity You Do Well - HB Unit 1 Level C

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Write a description of an activity you know how to do well. The activity might be writing music, playing a sport, or anything that uses a special talent you have. Describe the activity so that your classmates will be able to picture how you do the activity.

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An Admirable Woman in History

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Throughout our there have been many admirable women who have had an important impact on our lives. Whether they were great leaders, writers, or individuals who broke

new ground and gender barriers, the roles of many women throughout history are to be admired. What woman in history do you admire most? What did she contribute to the world or accomplish in her life that earned your admiration?

In a detailed essay, write about a famous woman in history that you admire. Include facts and details about her life to support your choice.

An Artist You Admire

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Artists often help to criticize, analyze, and inspire our society and our lives. They help us better understand the realities of the world. Select an artist (musician, painter, dancer, etc.) that you admire and think about the messages communicated through her/his work. What are his/her best accomplishments? How does he/she inspire you to be creative?

Write a multi-paragraph essay discussing an artist and the reasons you admire his/her work. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

An Individual Who Has Impacted History

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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The right individual arriving at the right time in history can bring about significant changes. Investigate an individual at a major turning point in whether good or bad, and describe how his or her actions impacted history. Why do you think this person made such an impression on the world? What makes his or her actions so unique?

In a well-developed essay, discuss an individual and his or her impact on history. Include facts, details, and examples to support your discussion.

Analysis of a Newspaper Article

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Newspaper articles are written differently from an informative essay. Choose a news or feature article from a current newspaper, and discuss the structure of it compared to the structure of an informative essay. How is your article organized? How does the writer begin and conclude the article? What type of language and writing style are used?

In a detailed essay, discuss and analyze the differences in structure of two types of informational text: a newspaper article and an informative essay. Include examples and details to support your description.

Anger Management

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source(s) are not specified. Students choose their own source(s) based on the parameters outlined in the prompt task and/or provided by the teacher.

After watching a video on anger management, think of a time when you were very angry. What event or situation made you angry? Is there anything you would have changed about the way you handled your anger?

In a well-developed essay, describe an event that made you angry and use your five senses to explain how you were feeling at the time. As you are writing, think about the video's suggestions for managing your anger and apply them to the event you describe. Be sure to include facts, details, and examples for support.

Animal Olympics

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

With the Olympics only a few months away, athletes should consider themselves lucky that animals can't enter the games. Picture a gazelle doing the high jump, a cheetah in the 50-yard dash, or a flying squirrel leaping off the high dive. What would happen if animals held their own Olympics? What events would they have? Which animals would be on the medals platform?

In a well-developed essay, describe the Animal Olympics. Include details on events and participants to support your description.

Autobiography

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

An **autobiography** is a piece of writing about the author's life written by the author. Write an essay about yourself, your autobiography. Include key events or moments in



your life, friendships, interests, hobbies, or goals and dreams that define you as a person. What makes you tick?

Best Friends are Special People

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

Best friends are special people in our lives. Think about your best friend, the things that you enjoy doing together, and reasons that you like him or her.

In a well-developed essay, tell the reader about your best friend. Consider including the reasons you remain good friends and things you enjoy doing together.

“Breaking Barriers”

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

Source One: “Breaking Barriers” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 990L

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

Carefully read “Breaking Barriers.” Then write a multi-paragraph essay in which you summarize the article. Be sure to use specific details and examples from the article to support your response.

Build a Teacher

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

If you were given the opportunity to “build” the ideal teacher, what features would you include? What personality features make a teacher more effective? What characteristics of teachers you have had would you incorporate into your teacher?

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe the features and characteristics you would build into the ideal teacher. Include details that will enable the reader to understand the important qualities of the teacher.

We all know that it is important to do well in school and get good grades. However, we don't just wake up one morning with straight A's. What are some causes of high academic performance?

Write a detailed essay discussing the causes of a stellar academic record. Include examples and experiences to support your discussion.

Characteristics of a President

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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What are the most important characteristics for a president to have? The U.S. Constitution states that the President of the United States must be at least 35 years old and have been born in the United States. But there are obviously other requirements that a president must meet.

In a detailed essay, describe the qualities that are needed in a president of the United States that can make him or her successful.

Chronology of Boston Tea Party Events

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Research the details of the Boston Tea Party and write a chronology of this event by answering these three questions: What were the causes of the Boston Tea Party? Exactly what happened at the Boston Tea Party? What were the effects of the Boston Tea Party?

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Clocks

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Throughout the ages, humans have developed different ways to tell time. We have progressed from using hourglasses to digital time pieces as our needs have changed. In a well-developed essay, compare and contrast two or more ways to tell time and their uses in the past and present.

Compare and Contrast Space and Oceanic Exploration

Prompt Source(s): 5 Source Lexile Range: 1100L-1400L

Source One: “Interplanetary Exploration: Exploring the Cosmos” By the staff of *National Geographic*

Source Lexile Level: 1100L-1400L

Source Two: “A Brief History of Space Exploration” By the staff of *Aerospace*

Source Lexile Level: 1100L-1400L

Source Three: “Space Exploration” By staff of the U.S. *National Archives and Records Administration*

Source Lexile Level: N/A

Source Four: “What Is Ocean Exploration and Why Is It Important?” By the staff of the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)* of the U.S. Department of Commerce

Source Lexile Level: 1100L-1400L

Source Five: “The Deep Sea” By Hannah Waters of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Source Lexile Level: 1100L-1400L

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

Having read, viewed, and discussed different aspects of space and oceanic exploration, write an informational essay about the topic to be sent to your state senator. Be sure that the essay thoroughly covers the similarities and differences between the two forms of exploration.

In a multi-paragraph informative/explanatory essay, compare and contrast space and oceanic exploration for your state senator. Remember to include and cite key details and facts from your sources that clearly elaborate on the two forms of exploration.

Compare and Contrast the Panama Canal and Great Wall of China

Prompt Source(s): 2 Source Lexile Range: 1000L-1500L

Source One: “The Panama Canal” By Vantage Learning

Source Lexile Level: 1000L-1500L

Source Two: “Deconstructing History: Great Wall of China” By the History.com staff

Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

Carefully read the article “The Panama Canal” and watch the video “Deconstructing History: Great Wall of China.” They describe very different construction projects. After examining the ideas conveyed in each, write a multi-paragraph, informative essay in which you compare and contrast the purpose behind each structure and the challenges builders faced during their construction. Include facts and details from the text and video to support your writing.

Conflict in Society

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Think about a person who faced a conflict between what he or she thought was right and what others believed was right. Who was this person, and what conflict did he or she face?

Write a multi-paragraph essay describing the conflict the individual encountered, how it was resolved, and its aftereffects. Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your analysis.

Conservation of Water

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Of the water on Earth's surface, only about 3% is fresh water. We use it for drinking and personal hygiene, for watering crops, and for producing energy. All living things depend on water for survival. In what ways is water important to you? How does this impact how you use and conserve water?

In a well-developed essay, discuss your use and conservation of water due to its importance to you. Include facts and examples to support your discussion.

Construction Projects

Prompt Source(s): 2	Source Lexile Range:	1010L-1130L
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Source One: “The Panama Canal” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 1010L-1130L

Source Two: “The Mystery of the Moai” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 1010L-1130L

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

Carefully read “The Panama Canal” and “The Mystery of the Moai.” They both describe very different construction projects. Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you compare and contrast the purpose behind each structure and the challenges the builders faced. Use details from both articles to support your answer.

“Crazy about Games”

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

Source One: “Crazy about Games” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 930L

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

Carefully read “Crazy about Games.” Then write a multi-paragraph essay in which you summarize the article. Be sure to use specific details and examples from the article to support your response.

Critique a Field Trip

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

Teachers spend a lot of time researching and planning field trips, which are learning experiences outside of the classroom. How would you evaluate a field trip you have taken recently? Where did you go? What did you learn? Would you recommend the trip to a friend?

In a well-developed essay, critique a field trip. Include facts and details to support your critique.

Daily Use of Transfer of Energy

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

Energy is defined as the capacity to do work. In our daily lives, we experience the transfer of energy from one form to another. For example, electrical energy is transformed into mechanical energy in an electric pencil sharpener or electric fan. How do you benefit from the transfer of energy during your day?



In a well-developed essay, describe how you benefit from the transfer of energy in your daily life. Include facts and details to support your description.

Describing a Memorable Place

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	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.

Describing Someone Close to You - HB Unit 1 Level A

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Write a description for your class to read. Tell about a friend or someone in your family.

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Designing Your Dream City

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine you are an architect and have been hired to design a brand new city. Where would you build your new city? How would you design it? What would it look like? What types of people would like to live or work there? What types of buildings, streets, and transportation would be included in your city?

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe in detail this ideal city you would like to build.

Disaster Plan

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

Imagine that a major hurricane, tornado, or other natural disaster is about to hit your town. What are some things you and your family could do to remain safe?

In a detailed essay, develop a natural disaster plan in which you discuss what you would do to remain safe in the onset of a natural disaster. Provide examples from experiences, observations, or from natural disasters you have learned about.

“Egg-Laying Species”

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

Source One: “Egg-Laying Species” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 990L

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

Carefully read “Egg-Laying Species.” Parents go to great lengths to protect their young. Write a multi-paragraph essay contrasting how the various species in the article protect their offspring. Describe why these animals behave in such a manner. Use details from the article to support your answer.

Ellis Island

Prompt Source(s): 2 **Source Lexile Range:** 900L-1000L

Source One: “Welcome to Ellis Island” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 900L-1000L

Source Two: “American Wings” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 900L-1000L

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

Carefully read “American Wings” and “Welcome to Ellis Island.” What challenges did immigrants face coming to America? Write a multi-paragraph essay explaining why you think people endured these challenges to become Americans. Use details from both texts to support your answer.



Write an essay describing your favorite hobby or activity and discuss what makes it enjoyable to you.

Favorite Person

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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We all have a favorite person, someone whom we like or respect more than anyone else. Think about the person in your life you consider your favorite. What is this person like? What does this person do to make him or her your favorite?

Write an essay about this person explaining what he or she is like and the things that he or she does that make him or her so special to you.

Geography Affects Way of Life

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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The geographical location of a country and its environment play a major role in the lifestyles of the people in that country. Factors such as diet and culture are greatly affected by a country's location on the map. For example, Japan has a large fishing and seafood industry due to the fact that it is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. It also has large volcanic areas that make only certain areas of the country habitable.

In a detailed essay, describe the influence of a country's environment and geographical location on the people and their way of life. Include facts and examples in your description.

High School Entrance Essay

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine that the high school(s) in your district require you to submit an essay about yourself for consideration of admission.

Write a multi-paragraph essay to your high school selection committee in which you introduce yourself by discussing your educational background and goals, highlighting your academic and extracurricular accomplishments, and discussing the reasons you feel this high school is right for you.

Historical Figure for a Day

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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We study and remember historical figures for their efforts to keep peace, end conflict, or impact society in some way. If you could be a historical figure for a day, who would you choose to be? What events in his or her life would you like to experience?

In a well-developed essay, describe a day you spend as a historical figure during his or her lifetime. Use facts and details from the life of the person you choose to support your description.

How has Technology Changed Daily Life?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Think about how daily life, from reading to playing games to communicating with others, has changed over the past hundred years because of technology. Using specific details and examples, explain how these advancements in technology have changed daily life.

How is Math Used in Science?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Describe how mathematics is used to ask and answer questions about the natural world. What mathematical functions or concepts have you used in science class?

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How to Play Your Favorite Game

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Most people like to play games. Think about your favorite game. Write directions telling how to play your favorite game for a person who has never played it before.

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Laramie Office, 2020 Grand Avenue, Laramie, WY 82070.*



If I Were President

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine that you were elected President and could change one important thing about your country. What would it be?

Write a multi-paragraph speech to your classmates in which you share your decision, as well as the reasons behind your change and the actions you would take to implement it. Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your response.

Important Inventions

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Discoveries and inventions have tremendous impact on our lives. Think about and choose one that has affected society. Write an essay to inform your reader about this discovery or invention. Explain its impact or influence on humankind.

Important Possession

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Many of us have one possession that we consider particularly important. Think about one special object that you consider very important to you. Why is this object important to you?

Write an essay explaining this special possession and why this object has such special meaning.

Improvements to School Rules

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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In order for groups of people to work together effectively, rules must be in place. Think about the rules that exist in your school. Write an essay identifying school rules that need to be improved and provide suggestions for improvements to these school rules.

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Is a Driver's License Important to You?

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

From a very young age, many children enjoy the prospect of getting to drive a car. Getting a driver's license is the first step to getting behind the wheel, so it's very important to a lot of young people. Others are content to take the bus, walk, or carpool, arguing that driving can be expensive and dangerous.

Think about the positives and negatives associated with learning to drive. Then, write an essay describing whether or not getting your driver's license is important to you. Be sure to use details for support.

Jet Packs

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

Source(s) are not specified. Students choose their own source(s) based on the parameters outlined in the prompt task and/or provided by the teacher.

After researching articles on jet packs, write a detailed essay that explains the process of how they work. In your essay, include the conclusion or implications you can draw from the development of this technology. Cite the sources used for your research, pointing out key elements from each source.

Learning from the Past

Prompt Source(s): 2 Source Lexile Range: 1250L-1450L

Source One: "Time Past" By Joseph Berger of *The New York Times Upfront*

Source Lexile Level: 1250L-1450L

Source Two: "Faces, Too, Are Searched at U.S. Airports" By Eric Lipton of *The New York Times Upfront*

Source Lexile Level: 1250L-1450L

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

What can we learn from the past? How can the nation prevent future discrimination? After reading the articles "Time Past" and "Faces, Too, Are Searched at U.S. Airports?," write an essay that explains what the United States can learn from the aftermath of

Pearl Harbor and September 11, 2001. Support your discussion with evidence from each of the articles.

Media Influence

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

The media significantly influences our lives these days. We are surrounded by media sources such as television, radio, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet. Which of these media sources do you think most affects our daily lives? How does it affect us? Write an essay about the media source of your choice and explain how it affects your life and the lives of those around you.

Middle School Changes

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

When students first enter middle school, they are often surprised by how different it is. Schedules, teachers, and friends change. Soon students realize that these differences have caused them to change too in many ways.

In a detailed essay, discuss how you have changed since you entered middle school. Include examples and details to support your discussion.

Music in My Life

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

Music is often a part of our everyday lives. Many people listen to their iPods or MP3 players while exercising, working, relaxing, or even while exploring nature. Many use the Internet to explore music, download music, and watch music videos. Some even make their own music, either as part of a group or independently. However people choose to include music in their lives, it often affects their mood, attitude, or behavior.

In a multi-paragraph essay, explain how music is a part of your life. Be sure to include specific details about the music and examples of how it might influence your ideas, emotions, relationships, and behavior.

My Own “Private Island”

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



Source One: *Barrio Boy* By Ernesto Galarza
Source Lexile Level: 1140L

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

The true story, *Barrio Boy* by Ernesto Galarza, describes a young boy who journeyed from a mountain village in Mexico to a barrio in Sacramento, California during the Mexican Revolution. The barrio boy consistently felt like an outsider in his new world and would imagine that he was back in Mexico, his own “private island.”

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you describe your own “private island,” a place you go when you need to be alone. Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your response.

Mythology in Advertising

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

Many large companies use figures from Greek mythology to advertise products that we commonly use. These characters are often chosen for their apparent strengths and acts of courage and sacrifice. Imagine that a major sports drink company has asked you to choose a mythological character to use as a symbol for a new sport drink. What character would you choose, and what are some of the characteristics that make this character a perfect choice?

In a detailed essay, describe how you would use a character from Greek mythology as a symbol for a sport drink. Use references from the myth to support your description.

Natural Disasters

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

America is a beautiful land, yet it is subject to all manner of natural disasters, from tornados in the Midwest to hurricanes in the Southeast, blizzards in the Northeast to earthquakes in the West. Think about one of these natural disasters that you may have experienced or about which you have read. How do you think the nation can better prepare for another such disaster? Is there anything that you can do to be ready?

Write an essay in which you describe how you think the nation and its people should prepare for another natural disaster. Be sure to use details and reasons to support the choices you make.

opportunity.” Assume the role of one of the millions of people who immigrated to the United States in the late 1800s.

Write about why you want to come to the United States and what opportunities you hope to take advantage of. Your composition should describe at least three things that the immigrants hoped to obtain and why each of these things is so important to you as an immigrant.

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People Change

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range: N/A
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People change over time. Think of a person you know who has changed over time. What was this person like in the past and what is this person like now? How has this change affected you?

Write an essay explaining how this person has changed and how this change has affected you.

Persephone and the Four Seasons

Prompt Source(s): 2	Source Lexile Range: 800L-1150L
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Source One: “Persephone” By Claire Boiko, provided courtesy of *Plays, the Drama Magazine for Young People* and the *SIRS® Discoverer® Database*

Source Lexile Level: NP

Source Two: “Season” By the staff of *Britannica Kids*

Source Lexile Level: 800L-1150L

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

Different cultures have different explanations for the four seasons, which are frequently included in their folklore and literature. For example, the play *Persephone* by Claire Boiko explains why we have the seasons of spring and winter.

After reading an article on the reason for seasons and the play *Persephone*, write a multi-paragraph informational essay discussing why we have our four seasons. Include information from both texts to support your discussion.

In our society we face a number of problems, such as crime, poverty, and pollution. What do you think is the biggest problem we face in our society today, and why is it a serious issue?

Write an essay explaining the issue or problem you have chosen and why it is having such a negative effect on our society.

Spread of the Black Death

Prompt Source(s): 2 **Source Lexile Range:** 990L-1080L

Source One: “The Black Death” By Martha Deeringer, provided courtesy of the *SIRS*® *Discoverer*® *Database*

Source Lexile Level: 990L-1080L

Source Two: “The Black Plague” By Sean Kerrigan, provided courtesy of Vantage Learning

Source Lexile Level: 990L-1080L

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

In Martha Deeringer's article “The Black Death” and Sean Kerrigan's article “The Black Plague,” the spread and cause of the dread disease are described in detail. In a multi-paragraph essay, describe a problem that enabled the disease to be transmitted quickly to a widespread area and a possible solution to the spread of the disease. Support your discussion with evidence from the sources.

The Bill of Rights

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 1400L-1500L

Source One: Excerpt from “The U.S. Bill of Rights” provided courtesy of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Source Lexile Level: 1490L

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

The Bill of Rights grants protection to Americans on a daily basis. What does the Bill of Rights mean to you as an American Citizen? Why do you think it is important? How might your life be different without the rights it grants?



Write an essay in which you specifically discuss the rights that we as Americans enjoy because of these amendments.

The California Gold Rush

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

Imagine you are living during the time of the California Gold Rush. Write a multi-paragraph essay depicting the experiences people faced during their journey to California. Make sure to include details, such as how the travelers prepared for their trip, the hardships they suffered, the frame of mind they were in, and other relevant information.

The Effects of Eating Disorders on Teens

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

Eating disorders are an important concern, especially for teens, whose bodies are at a critical stage of development. Early eating habits affect a body's health for many years beyond the teen years. Severe cases of some types of eating disorders are fatal. What are some of the eating disorders currently affecting teenagers? Why are these disorders unhealthy? How do they affect a teenager's future health?

In a well-developed essay, describe the eating disorders that are affecting teenagers and the impact the effects of these disorders have on their current and future health. Include facts and details to support your description.

The Effects of Social Media on Teens

Prompt Source(s): 2 Source Lexile Range: 1150L-1700L

Source One: "The Impact of Social Media on Children, Adolescents, and Families" By Gwenn Schurgin O'Keeffe, Kathleen Clarke-Pearson, and the Council on Communications and Media

Source Lexile Level: 1150L-1700L

Source Two: "How Using Social Media Affects Teenagers" By Rachel Ehmke, managing editor of the *Child Mind Institute*

Source Lexile Level: 1150L-1700L

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

Social media play a significant role in young adults' daily lives. Teens often tweet about what they had for breakfast, post updates to Facebook in between classes, or share their favorite photos with friends on Instagram. But what kind of impact do social media really have on teens today?

Experts in a wide range of fields have speculated on the effects of social media on teens. After reading expert opinions on the effects of social media on teens, write a multi-paragraph explanatory essay that compares and contrasts the authors' different viewpoints about the effects of social media on teens. Be sure to include key facts and details from your readings.

The Effects of Substance Abuse

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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We all have been warned about the dangers of abusing substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs. Why do you think substance abuse is so dangerous?

Write a multi-paragraph essay examining the consequences of substance abuse. Make sure to include specific details and examples to support your analysis.

The Holocaust: Conditions in Pre-War Germany

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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In the years prior to the Holocaust, German society experienced profound changes. What were the political, social, and economic conditions like in Germany that enabled Adolf Hitler to assume power and set the stage for the Holocaust to occur?

Decide what pre-war conditions you believe were the most important precursors to the Holocaust. Using the Internet, books, or other resources, gather research about these conditions. Then, write a well-developed essay in which you present this information and explain why you think these conditions were so important.

The Holocaust: Outside Intervention

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source(s) are not specified. Students choose their own source(s) based on the parameters outlined in the prompt task and/or provided by the teacher.

In looking back at the Holocaust, historians have noted that while some groups risked their lives to rescue Holocaust victims, including the Allied troops who ultimately liberated the death camps, other groups were reluctant to intervene on behalf of the victims.

Choose one of these two kinds of groups, either those who acted to help the victims of the Holocaust or those who did not, and gather research about the topic. You may use the Internet, books, or other resources to gather information. Then, write a well-developed essay in which you present the information. Why do you think the group you researched acted as it did?

The Power of Waves

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

- Source One:** “Raging Planet: Sea Storm - Rogue Waves” By the *Discovery Education* staff
Source Lexile Level: N/A
- Source Two:** “Properties of Waves” By the *Discovery Education* staff
Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

Both ocean rogue waves and tsunamis are enormous, sometimes measuring over 100 feet tall. Additionally, their power and speed can cause massive amounts of destruction. After learning about rogue waves and tsunamis, write a multi-paragraph, informative essay comparing these two natural occurrences. Support your comparison with facts and details from the texts and videos you study.

The Scientific Method

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

- Source One:** “Steps of the Scientific Method”
Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

The scientific method is a process used by scientists to develop, construct, and test reliable theories to explain natural phenomena.

Identify and explain three different ways that you use the scientific method to solve problems in your own life.

The Story Told by Egyptian Tomb Artifacts

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Much of what we have learned from ancient civilizations has been gathered from tomb sites. Artifacts in the pyramids have enabled us to understand much about the culture. If you were an Egyptian pharaoh, what items might be found in your tomb? What would these items tell us about your life and times?

In a well-developed essay, describe the items which would be found in your tomb if you were a pharaoh. Include facts and details to support your description.

The Three Branches of the US Government

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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The US government is composed of three distinct branches - the executive, legislative, and judicial - each with its own duties and powers. The authors of the US Constitution separated the powers of these three branches and instituted a system of checks and balances so that each branch had some way to limit the power of the other two.

In a well-developed essay, discuss what specific powers the legislative, executive, and judicial branches have and why the powers are separated. Be sure to discuss how each branch limits the power of the others.

Tourist Attractions In World Cities

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine that you are a world traveler who writes travel books and articles for a living. Your assignment is to write an informative travel article about any foreign city you choose, focusing particularly on the tourist attractions and sights that this city offers.



What is Empathy?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Dictionaries commonly define empathy as the ability to understand another person's situation or feelings. As we all know, this can be a challenging task at times.

What do you think it takes to be an empathetic person? Do you consider yourself to be an empathetic person? Why or why not? Write an essay in which you use specific examples from your life to discuss your understanding of empathy and whether you are an empathetic person.

What Kind of Artist Would You Be?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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There are many different forms of fine art, like painting, music, and theatre. If you could be any type of artist, what kind would you be?

In a well-developed essay, discuss the type of artist you would like to be. Include facts and examples to support your discussion.

What Learning Style Best Suits You?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Educators have long known that different students learn in different ways. For example, some students learn best by hearing information, some by seeing information. For each style of learning, there are more effective ways to learn and study. What type of learner are you? What strategies have you developed to better help you learn and study based on your style of learning?

In a well-developed essay, discuss your style of learning and how you have developed effective strategies for learning and studying based on your learning style. Use examples and details to support your discussion.

What Would You Tell the Founding Fathers?

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source(s) are not specified. Students choose their own source(s) based on the parameters outlined in the prompt task and/or provided by the teacher.

The Founding Fathers of the United States of America had a vision for the country they established. It has been over two centuries since those fearless men risked their lives for the principles they believed to be essential for a prosperous nation. If you could speak with the Founding Fathers, what would you tell them?

Research the founding of the United States and the men who were instrumental in that process. Then, write a multi-paragraph essay discussing what you would tell the Founding Fathers. Use your research to answer who, what, when, where, and why in your discussion.

What's in a Name?

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Source(s) are not specified. Students choose their own source(s) based on the parameters outlined in the prompt task and/or provided by the teacher.

Each of us has a name that makes us unique and helps to identify who we are. Yet, few people know the meaning or origin of their names.

Explore the origin of your name. 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 and what makes it unique to you.

Where Would You Like to Live?

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range: N/A

Do you love the fast-paced city life, or do you prefer the laid back country lifestyle? If you could choose to live in either the city or the country, which option would work best for you? Write a multi-paragraph essay explaining what lifestyle you'd choose and your reasons for coming to that decision.



Where Would You Like to Visit?

Prompt Source(s): 0

Source Lexile Range:

N/A

Where is one place in the world you would like to visit? Explain why you would want to visit this place, and what you would want to do or see once you arrive. Include specific details and examples in your response.

Pilot Prompts

A Character's Perseverance in a Literary Work

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

In times of difficulty, opposition, or discouragement, some people find the strength to persevere. Think about a character who demonstrates perseverance in a literary work. How do the words and actions of this literary character illustrate his/her perseverance?

In a multi-paragraph essay, analyze the words and actions of a literary character that demonstrate perseverance during the course of the story. Be sure to support your analysis with relevant evidence from the literary work.

A Meal That Tells a Story

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

Many cultures have traditions centered on food. In the Jewish culture, families eat Seder meals to celebrate the escape of the Israelites from Egypt. During Ramadan, Muslim families commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad with food after sunset. In these and many other celebrations, the meal is more than a meal; it is symbolic of something that happened in the past that is remembered through the sharing of a special meal.

Think about a special meal you have enjoyed, witnessed, or read about that “tells a story.” This meal might take place during a particular holiday or yearly celebration. In a multi-paragraph essay, inform your readers about a meal, the significance of the food, and the tradition or history it represents. Be sure to include sensory details so readers can fully appreciate the experience you describe.

Ancient Civilizations: The Ancient Chinese and the Great Wall of China

Prompt Source(s): 4 **Source Lexile Range:** 800L-900L

Source One: “What Makes the Great Wall of China So Extraordinary” By Megan Campisi, Pen-Pen Chen, et al., provided courtesy of *TedEd* and *YouTube*

Source Lexile Level: N/A

Source Two:	Excerpt from “Ancient China: The Great Wall” By Ken Nelson of <i>Ducksters.com</i>
Source Lexile Level:	800L-900L
Source Three:	“Deconstructing History: Great Wall of China” By the <i>History.com</i> staff
Source Lexile Level:	N/A
Source Four:	“The Great Wall of China” By Maximilian Dörrbecker under the username Chumwa, provided courtesy of <i>Wikimedia Commons</i>
Source Lexile Level:	N/A

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

Your history class is currently studying Ancient Chinese culture. Your assignment is to write an explanatory research article about the Great Wall of China. You will present your article to your class during your school's upcoming Cultural Festival. You found **four** sources about the Great Wall of China to use for your research. In your article, describe the Great Wall, its purpose, and the challenges the Chinese people faced in its construction.

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

Are We Protecting our Freshwater Ecosystem?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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We have attempted to protect our freshwater ecosystems with governmental policies. How effective have these policies been?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the governmental policies designed to protect a freshwater ecosystem and their effect on the current condition of the ecosystem. Use facts and details to support your discussion.

Art Forms and Culture

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Thoughtful acts can take many forms, such as unexpected help or even just a kind word. Explain how a thoughtful act can benefit those involved. Use specific details and examples in your response.

Benefits of Having a Good Attitude

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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People often credit their successes to having good attitudes. Explain the benefits of having a good attitude, even during a difficult time. Provide examples from your own experience or from having witnessed this in others.

Better to Take Risks?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Is it better to take risks and perhaps make some mistakes or remain cautious and risk nothing? Explain using specific details and examples in your response.

Can Competition Improve Life?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Competition is a constant presence in today's schools, where students not only compete with one another in the classroom but also in sports and in various extracurricular activities. Explain how competition can improve life or make it more difficult for students. Use specific details and examples in your response.

Causes and Effects of the Crusades

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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A major animation film company plans to make an animated movie about the Crusades. The company is sponsoring a competition to select the best writer to create the movie script. The winner will be awarded a full scholarship to the college of his or her choice. In addition, the winner could use the opportunity to launch a career as a filmmaker. You have decided to submit a script. Now you must research the Crusades to ensure historical accuracy in your script.

Write a report in which you explain what you believe to be the most significant causes and effects of the Crusades through the perspective of Europeans. Cite (reference) specific examples from your sources to support your ideas.

Changes in the Sky

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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We can observe many changes in the sky. Changes in the elements of weather and heavenly bodies occur night and day. What changes in the daytime sky have you observed? What changes in the night sky have you observed?

In a well-developed essay, describe changes that you have observed in the sky. Include facts and details to support your description.

Charles Darwin, Natural Selection, and the Galapagos Islands

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Charles Darwin is famous for his trip to the Galapagos Islands, where he found evidence to support the theory of natural selection. In a detailed essay, discuss the evidence collected by Charles Darwin on his trip aboard the H.M.S. Beagle which supports the theory of natural selection. Include facts and details to support your discussion.

Civil War as a Test of Democracy

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

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

“Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.”

—From the November 19, 1863 Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln considered the Civil War a test of the democratic foundation of the United States of America. What tenets of democracy were being tested? What

democratic process would he have suggested for the resolution of the conflict that caused the Civil War?

In a well-developed essay, discuss the Civil War as a test of democracy in the United States of America. Use facts and examples to support your discussion.

Collecting as a Hobby

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Collecting is a fun hobby in which a person finds, gathers, and takes care of each part of a set of things. Collectors have a passion for collecting items such as stamps, coins, baseball cards, toys, records, or comic books that are rare and, in time, could grow to be worth a great deal of money. If you do not already have a collection started, what would you like to collect?

In a well-developed essay, discuss a collection you may have started or would like to start. You might include the different ways you have to care for the items you have collected, and how and where you would display your collection.

Comparing Artwork

Prompt Source(s):	2	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source One: *The Storm* By Pierre Auguste Cot
Source Lexile Level: N/A

Source Two: *Impression, Sunrise* By Claude Monet
Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

Two paintings that demonstrate an interesting overlap in artistic movements are *The Storm* by Pierre Auguste Cot and *Impression, Sunrise* by Claude Monet. Both works were painted by French artists during a span of less than a decade; yet, there are some very noticeable differences between the two paintings.

In a multi-paragraph response, compare and contrast both paintings. You might want to draw attention to the subjects of each painting, the colors used, and the artists' techniques. Be visually descriptive, and use both replications of the paintings as a guide.

Consumer Complaint

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Corporations know how valuable consumers' comments are to continually improve their products or services. Consumer complaints, although unpleasant, provide opportunities for companies to facilitate changes for increased customer satisfaction and healthy bottom lines.

Imagine you decide to write to a company to complain about its product(s) or service(s). In a multi-paragraph letter to a corporation, present feedback on a negative experience you have had with its product(s) or service(s). Include details to present the situation clearly and maintain an appropriate tone for a business communication.

Contrasting the Developing Colonized Regions

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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As immigration to the New World increased, four different geographical regions developed: New England, Middle, Southern, and Backcountry. Analyze these regions considering the influences of family, education, religion, government, and economy.

Write a multi-paragraph essay analyzing and contrasting these regions. Include facts and details to support your analyses.

Definition of Success

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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What makes someone a success? Explain how you define success, using specific details and examples in your response.

Describe a Mnemonic

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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A mnemonic is a formula, rhyme, or other device that serves as a memory aid. A mnemonic for the order of the planets (including Pluto) is "My very excitable mother just served us nine pizzas," in which the first letter in each word stands for the first letter of a

planet. What information that you had to learn for school have you remembered by using a mnemonic? What was the mnemonic?

In a well-developed essay, describe a mnemonic that you developed to help remember information for school and how you used that mnemonic as a memory aid.

Describe Polygons

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Describe various polygons using the concepts of parallel and perpendicular lines.

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Description of a Painting

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine that you are a curator of an art museum, which is featuring a painting for an upcoming exhibit. A large group of people are coming this weekend to a preview reception for the exhibit, and you must describe this work of art to your audience. Is the painting a landscape or an abstract? What colors are used? What kind of feeling do you get from this work of art?

Choose a particular painting, and, in a detailed essay, describe your painting to a prospective audience of museum visitors. Remember to include vivid descriptions and use imagery when possible.

Design a Complex Machine

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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The wedge, inclined plane, screw, lever, pulley, and wheel and axle are simple machines. Two or more simple machines combined are called a complex machine. Imagine that you are a very imaginative inventor working on a complex machine. What function would your complex machine perform? What simple machines would be part of your complex machine?



In a well-developed essay, describe the complex machine you would invent including its simple machine components.

Design a Neighborhood of the Future

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Your assignment is to design a neighborhood of the future. Explain what you would include in a neighborhood of the future and why. Include specific details and examples in your design.

Differences and Similarities between the Inner and Outer Planets

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Due to their location in our solar system, the planets can be categorized as inner or outer planets. In a detailed essay, discuss the major differences and similarities between the inner and outer planets. Include facts and details on planet size, composition, location in the solar system, moons, and atmosphere to support your discussion.

Directions for Staying Healthy

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Staying healthy is important. Think about the steps a person needs to take to stay healthy. Write directions for staying healthy.

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Dream Award

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Some people dream of winning a Nobel Prize, an Olympic medal, an Oscar, or even a scholarship! What award would you like to pursue?

In a multi-paragraph essay, describe the award that you would like to receive. Include details about the award and what you would do to earn it.

Earning Something Special

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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What are the advantages of earning your own money to purchase something special?

Explain the advantages using specific details and examples in your response.

Effects of Climate Change on National Parks

Prompt Source(s): 4	Source Lexile Range: 1100L-1300L
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Source One: “**Climate Change and National Parks**” By the *National Park Service* staff, provided courtesy of the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior

Source Lexile Level: 1100L-1300L

Source Two: “**Effects in Parks**” By the *National Park Service* staff, provided courtesy of the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior

Interior

Source Lexile Level: 1100L-1300L

Source Three: “**Photo Gallery: Climate Impacts to Parks**” By the *National Park Service* staff, provided courtesy of the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior

Source Lexile Level: 1100L-1300L

Source Four: “**NPS Responds**” By the *National Park Service* staff, provided courtesy of the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior

Source Lexile Level: 1100L-1300L

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

From the Badlands to the Everglades and from the Rocky Mountains to Assateague Island, there are so many sights to see and explore in the fifty-nine national parks located in the United States. Visitors come from all over the world to experience these protected areas. However, many people are finding that climate change is threatening the beauty of these scenic preserves. How is climate change affecting national parks? What can scientists do to protect these natural landmarks?

After reading the sources, write a multi-paragraph essay discussing how climate change is affecting national parks and include what scientists are doing to protect these natural

After carefully examining the place and time discussed in a selected video, write a well-developed essay in which you discuss what living in that time and place would be like. Be sure to include facts and details from the video to support your discussion on topics such as daily life, tools, food, education, roles of men, women, and children in the time period, etc.

Explain the Simplification of a Math Expression

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

Read the math problem.

Explain the steps you would take to completely simplify the expression
 $[3+(6+4)^2\div 5]\times 2$.

(Note: 2 stands for squared or to the second power)

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. Be sure to use words in place of symbols and numbers in your essay.

Extreme Weather: Understanding Hurricanes

Prompt Source(s): 4 **Source Lexile Range:** 1000L-1100L

- Source One:** Excerpt from “How Do Hurricanes Form?” By Kristen Erickson of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA)
Source Lexile Level: 1000L-1100L
- Source Two:** Excerpt from “What Are Hurricanes?” By Brian Dunbar of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA)
Source Lexile Level: 1000L-1100L
- Source Three:** “What Are Hurricanes, Typhoons and Tropical Cyclones?” Produced by the Met Office, the National Weather Service for the UK
Source Lexile Level: N/A
- Source Four:** “01: Hurricanes” By Michael Starobin, et al., Produced for the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA)
Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

Your science class is currently studying meteorology. Your assignment is to write an explanatory research article about hurricanes. You will present your article to your class during your school's upcoming Science Fair. You found **four** sources about hurricanes to use for your research. In your article, describe hurricanes and explain their impact on people and the environment.

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

Favorite Activity

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Everyone has an activity they enjoy doing. It might be playing an instrument or a sport. Think about what you enjoy doing the most.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss an activity you enjoy and why you like this activity so much.

Feature Article Depicting an Event

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Throughout our lives, we experience, observe, hear, and read about many important events. Think about some historically significant events. In preparing to write a feature article on a historical event, what questions might you ask about the event or in an interview with someone who personally experienced the event?

In a well-developed feature article, write about a significant historical event. Remember to describe what happened and when it happened. Also be sure to include a variety of facts, details, and examples.

Fighting for Liberty: A Biography of Harriet Tubman

Prompt Source(s):	1	Source Lexile Range:	1000L-1500L
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Source One: *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* By Ann Petry
Source Lexile Level: 1000L

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

Read *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*, a biography of Harriet Tubman's life written by Ann Petry. Consider how Tubman and the other characters represent the fight for freedom and encourage others to follow their lead through their words and actions.

Write a multi-paragraph explanatory essay that illustrates how Harriet Tubman and other characters in *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad* supported the abolitionist movement and the fight for freedom during the American Civil War.

Forming an Opinion on Race

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

Parents, grandparents, and other family members are often seen as a child's first teachers. The way children speak, act, and think can be influenced by those around them. A child's attitude toward others can be shaped by what is modeled in his or her daily life. Think about what you have learned from your family about race, which is defined as a group of people who share a common culture or history. What opinions have you formed about other races from your parents, grandparents, or other family members? What are the different ways that they talk about race? How do they shape or influence your opinion?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss your family members' attitudes toward other races and explain how those attitudes shape or influence your thoughts about race. Include specific details to support your ideas so the readers can fully understand your opinion.

Ghost Stories in Our Towns

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

Each American city has at least one ghost story. For example, in New Hope (a historic town in Bucks County, Pa.), the Logan Inn, a hotel and restaurant, is known for stories of several ghosts believed to haunt its walls. What ghost stories have you heard about the town in which you live (or a nearby town)?



In a detailed essay, discuss ghost stories from your hometown or a nearby town. Include details to support your discussion.

Historic Landmarks

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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The United States is full of historic landmarks; your own town might even be home to at least one historic landmark. In a detailed essay, describe a particular landmark and the history that surrounds it.

Homemade Gift

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Sometimes the best gift you can give someone is a gift that you make yourself. If you were going to make or build a gift for a friend or family member, what would it be? How would you make it? Why would this gift be appreciated or liked by the person receiving it?

In a well-developed essay, describe a gift you would like to build or make for a friend or family member. Be sure to add details as you describe the gift.

How Art Affects My Life

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Art can affect our lives in many different ways. There are several different types of art, including visual and performing arts. When you watch a movie or listen to music, you are observing art. Think about how often you interact with either of these art forms. Does art inspire you? How is your life affected by the arts?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss how art affects your everyday life. Explain how your life might be different without the arts. Use examples and personal experience to support your discussion.

How an Author Can Affect Your Writing

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Attending a book signing or an authors' festival, listening to an author interview, or even inviting an author to visit your school can offer personal insight into the minds of these writers. After gaining such a personal view of an author, which writer do you most respect and enjoy? What did the author say in a talk, interview, panel discussion, or to you personally that truly touched you and made you look at your own writing in a different way? How did the author's words inspire you to become a better writer?

In a well-developed essay, discuss how an author has affected you and your writing. In which area of your writing have they had the biggest effect? Be sure to include what the author said that inspired you to become a better writer.

How Do We Use Fractions?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Describe different ways in which fractions are used in mathematics and in life outside of school.

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How do You Feel About Public Speaking?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Some people enjoy public speaking while others are frightened by it. Using specific details and examples, explain how you feel about public speaking.

How Would You Change Your School?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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If you could make a significant change to the structure or appearance of your school, what would it be? Identify the change you would make, and explain why you would make it.

How You Use a Talent or Skill

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Everyone has a talent or skill. Identify a talent or skill you have, and explain how you develop and use it. Use specific details and examples in your response.

Human Error Causes Disaster

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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From the radiation release at Chernobyl to the sinking of the Titanic, flawed decisions and human shortcomings have caused major disasters. Could these disasters have been averted? How did the disaster impact future decision making?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss a disaster caused by human error or flawed decisions. Consider including in your discussion the ramifications of the event and impact on future decisions.

Identifying a New Species

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Although we hear everyday of species being lost to extinction, there are also new species yet to be discovered in remote areas of the earth. Scientists use a system originally devised by Linnaeus to classify living things. If you were a scientist conducting research in a remote region and discovered a unique organism, how would you determine whether it was a new species? What would be the process for classifying it?

In a well-developed essay, discuss how you would classify a new organism. Use facts and examples to support your discussion.

Impact of a Book, Song or Movie

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Books, songs, and movies often hold great meaning to people. Sometimes books, songs, and movies cause an emotional connection; we feel just like one of the characters. Other times books, songs, and movies cause us to think about life in a new



way. Write an essay explaining how a book, song, or movie can have an impact on our lives.

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Impact of Religious Beliefs on Society

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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What impact do religious beliefs have on the values and social rules of a society? How do certain religious beliefs affect the everyday routines of people? Why might these religious differences become problematic for different groups of people who live near each other?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the impact of religious beliefs on the values and social rules of a society. Use facts and details to support your discussion.

Impact of Settlement in the Americas

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Settlement in the Americas had a tremendous impact on indigenous peoples. To what extent did colonists and indigenous societies influence each other?

Using reliable sources, write a multi-paragraph essay describing the impacts indigenous and colonist societies had on each other. Include facts and details to support your description.

Impact of U.S. Government Policies on Native American Populations

Prompt Source(s):	5	Source Lexile Range:	1000L-1500L
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Source One:	Article “Maps of Indian Territory, the Dawes Act, and Will Rogers' Enrollment Case File” By Kerry C. Kelly, a teacher at Hunterdon Central Regional High School in Flemington, NJ
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Source Lexile Level:	1000L-1500L
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Source Two:	Map of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) 1885 featured in article “Maps of Indian Territory, the Dawes Act, and Will Rogers' Enrollment Case File” By Kerry C. Kelly, a teacher at Hunterdon Central Regional High School in Flemington, NJ
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Source Lexile Level:	N/A
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- Source Three:** *Map of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) 1891* featured in article “**Maps of Indian Territory, the Dawes Act, and Will Rogers' Enrollment Case File**” By Kerry C. Kelly, a teacher at Hunterdon Central Regional High School in Flemington, NJ
- Source Lexile Level:** N/A
- Source Four:** **Article and lesson plan “The Legacy of Indian Removal (1830-1840)”** By Donna Sharer, High School Social Studies Teacher from Northeast High School, Philadelphia, PA
- Source Lexile Level:** 1000L-1500L
- Source Five:** **“Key Dates and Events” timeline excerpted from online article & lesson plan “The Legacy of Indian Removal (1830-1840)”** By Donna Sharer, High School Social Studies Teacher from Northeast High School, Philadelphia, PA
- Source Lexile Level:** N/A

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

U.S. government policies in the 1800s caused major changes in the migration patterns and cultural practices of Native Americans. Congress signed the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which forced tribes to resettle on reservations west of the Mississippi River. In 1887, the Dawes Act further threatened their way of life. This policy forced the idea of private ownership on the tribes. The government divided communal reservation land into pieces and encouraged tribe members to farm and ranch on the land like their white neighbors. Popular belief was that if Native Americans adopted white ways, they would let go of their own cultural traditions and become a part of the larger society.

Read information about the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Dawes Act of 1887. In a multi-paragraph essay, analyze the impact of U.S. government policies in the 1800s on Native American migration patterns and cultural practices. Cite the text to support your analysis.

Importance of Budgeting Time

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Students often learn how to budget their time in order to complete important tasks and still have time for themselves. Explain how learning to budget time is an important skill for students. Use specific details and examples in your response.

Important Archaeological Discoveries

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

Have you ever wanted to learn about what life was like hundreds or even thousands of years ago? The people who study ancient artifacts are called archaeologists and they have made many important discoveries.

In a multi-paragraph essay, pick what you think is the most important archaeological discovery and explain why it is significant and how it has affected us today.

Improving Television

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

When television originated, the screens only displayed black and white images and there were very few channels. Since then, televisions have evolved to include hundreds of channels, thousands of programs, and lifelike pictures and sounds.

Where does television go from here? Write a multi-paragraph essay describing how you think television will evolve in the future.

Inherited and Learned Traits

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

You are a unique person. Write about yourself in a scientific way. Explain heredity and give examples of inherited, as well as learned, traits.

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Is Peter Pan a Hero?

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

Source One: *Peter Pan* By J.M. Barrie
Source Lexile Level: 1040L

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

In the story of *Peter Pan*, Peter and his friends stay in Neverland never wanting to grow up. Peter offers Wendy and her siblings the choice of staying with him and remaining children, or going back home and dealing with the challenges of becoming adults. Many who have read Peter's story believe that his youthful nature is heroic in the sense that Peter will always be free of the rules, structures, and disappointments that adults face. However, there are many who feel that Peter is actually a very cowardly character who is hiding as a child, afraid of getting older and gaining responsibility.

In a detailed essay, describe whether or not you believe that Peter's ideas make him heroic or cowardly for not embracing the world of the adults.

Island Currency

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Pretend that you have been stranded on an island with your classmates and that you have to create a currency system that everyone on the island will use. The available resources are the tropical forest full of varied flora and fauna, the shells and pebbles that cover the beaches, the limestone cliffs which border one end of the island, and the few possessions that students have with them.

In a well-developed essay, describe the system of currency you will propose and explain how your island community will use it. Be sure to use specific details and examples in your essay.

Journal Entry of a West African

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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West Africans were faced with many dilemmas during slave trade. In West Africa, the dilemma was trading slaves for guns from Europeans in order to prevent being overtaken by a more powerful tribe. During the Middle Passage, the dilemma was trying to stay alive despite horrendous circumstances, to escape and risk being killed, or to try to starve themselves to death. In the Colonies, the dilemma was deciding to run away and risk severe punishment; to resist work by breaking tools, working slowly, acting sick, and singing songs with secret messages; or to work hard and obey the rules and hope for better treatment.

Imagine that you are a West African caught up in the slave trade in the early 1700s. Write a journal entry describing one day of your life either while living in West Africa or

Legendary Creatures from Folklore

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Famous or legendary creatures play a big part in the folklore of every culture. Creatures such as Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, and the Abominable Snowman are folklore legends that capture the imagination.

In a detailed essay, describe a legendary creature you have heard about. Include why this creature is unique and why so many people believe it exists.

Letter to a Tabloid Editor

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Every time we visit a local supermarket or drugstore, the headlines of celebrity tabloid newspapers and magazines beckon to us. At one time or another we have all read articles about our favorite or least favorite celebrities. What is your opinion of tabloids? How does their reporting of the news compare to that of other newspapers?

In a letter to the editor of a tabloid publication, articulate your position on the publication's reporting of news.

Making the Right Decision

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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We all make decisions every day - what to eat, what to wear, when to do homework, etc. Some decisions may have seemed minor at the time, but making the right decision turned out to be important. For some decisions, it is important that we spend time considering our options to ensure that we make the right decision. When have you made a decision that turned out to be the right decision?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss a time when a decision you made was the right one. Include details that will enable the reader to understand why your decision was the right one.

Man-made Waterways: China's Grand Canal and the Panama Canal

Prompt Source(s): 4 Source Lexile Range: 900L-1000L

Source One: “Engineering an Empire – Grand Canal in China” By the *History.com* staff, published on *YouTube* by YouTube user Historystack

Source Lexile Level: N/A

Source Two: Excerpt from “Ancient China: The Grand Canal” By Ken Nelson of *Ducksters.com*

Source Lexile Level: 900L-1000L

Source Three: “Who Built the Panama Canal?” By the *Human Interests* staff, published on *YouTube* by YouTube user Human Interests

Source Lexile Level: N/A

Source Four: Excerpt from “US History: Panama Canal” By Ken Nelson of *Ducksters.com*

Source Lexile Level: 900L-1000L

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

Your history class is currently studying how waterways affect cultures. Your assignment is to write an explanatory research article in which you compare and contrast two man-made waterways: China's Grand Canal and the Panama Canal. You will present your article to your class during your school's upcoming Cultural Festival. You found **four** sources about China's Grand Canal and the Panama Canal to use for your research. In your article, compare and contrast the canals, their construction processes, and the positive and negative outcomes of each project.

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

Maximizing Paper Airplane Flight Time

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

Whether a paper airplane is simple or complicated, there are basic parameters which impact its flight: thrust, lift, drag, and gravity. Thrust is the forward movement of the plane. Lift is the upward movement of the plane, and drag is the resistance to forward movement of the plane. Gravity is the downward force exerted on the plane. Combined, these parameters determine the duration and distance of the airplane's flight. If you

wanted to maximize a paper airplane's flight time, how would it affect the design? Would you adjust the wings, the tail, or the size? What materials would you use?

In a well-developed essay, describe the construction of a paper airplane designed to maximize flight time. Include facts and details to support your description.

Measuring Without a Ruler

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine that you need to measure the perimeter of your yard in order to purchase a new fence. Unfortunately, you do not have a ruler, yardstick, tape measure, or any other standard measuring tool. How will you complete the task of measuring the yard?

In a multi-paragraph essay, explain how you will go about measuring the perimeter of your yard. Remember to address each difficulty you will encounter and how you will handle it.

My Favorite Sports Team

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Team sports play a major role in the lives of many people who closely follow the competition and anticipate the excitement of each game. Some even relate the symbolism of the teams to their own lives. Each of us has a favorite team with which we live the exciting highs and suffer the disappointing lows.

In a well-developed essay, write about your favorite team and why it is special. Include details to support your description of the team.

My Year as an Exchange Student

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine that your school has asked you to become part of a student exchange program that allows you to spend a year in another country and experience their customs and ways of life. What country would you choose and what are some of the things you would do with your new family?

In a detailed essay, describe the exchange student experience you would most enjoy. Include facts and details to support your description.

Natural Disasters: Understanding Volcanoes

Prompt Source(s): 3 Source Lexile Range: 1000L-1100L

Source One: Excerpt from “Earth Science for Kids: Volcanoes” By Ken Nelson of *Ducksters.com*

Source Lexile Level: 1000L-1100L

Source Two: “Geography Lesson: What Is a Volcano?” By the *Twig-world.com* staff, provided courtesy of YouTube, Twig World: Education Company, Twig Education, and Twig World, Ltd.

Source Lexile Level: N/A

Source Three: Excerpt from “Explainer: The Volcano Basics” By Sid Perkins of *Science News for Students*

Source Lexile Level: 1000L-1100L

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

Your science class is currently studying natural disasters and their impact on people and the environment. Your assignment is to write an explanatory research article about natural disasters caused by volcanoes. You will present your article to your class and your teacher during the upcoming Science Fair at your school. You found **three** sources about volcanoes and volcanic eruptions to use for your research. Your article should describe the main types of volcanoes and their features, examine how and why volcanoes form, and explain how volcanoes affect people and the environment.

Review each of the **three** sources and select the most relevant information to develop a thesis/controlling idea about volcanoes and their impact on people and the environment. Then, write a multi-paragraph explanatory article about volcanoes and volcanic eruptions, including their impact on people and the environment. Clearly organize your article and elaborate your ideas. Reference the source title or number when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing evidence from the sources.

Obama's Inauguration as a Moment in History

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

Source One: President Barack Obama's Inaugural Address (January 20, 2009)

Source Lexile Level: N/A

Source Two: President Barack Obama's Full Inauguration Speech 2009 | *The New York Times* published by *Youtube*

Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

Barack Obama's candidacy, election, and inauguration have been heralded as turning points in American history. Obama's inauguration and the days preceding it were full of references to other historic moments and figures. How will this moment be written into the history of the United States? How will we as citizens participate in this moment?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss Obama's entry into the presidency as an important moment in the history of the United States, including our role as citizens in this moment.

Objects and Places That Symbolize a Culture

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

There are objects and places that often remind us of what we stand for as a nation. The Statue of Liberty, which stands tall in New York City Harbor, can be seen as a symbolic representation of our freedom here in the United States of America.

Write an essay about an object or a place that symbolizes your country. You might consider areas or objects of historical significance. Be sure to include specific details or examples of how this is representative of your nation.

One Way You Would Like to Change the World

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

Source One: Quotation By Mahatma Gandhi
Source Lexile Level: N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

Civil rights leader Mahatma Gandhi wrote,

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

What is one way you would like to change the world, and how can you help to bring about this change? Use specific details and examples in your response.

Overcoming a Challenge as a Student

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

Identify a challenge facing students, and use specific details and examples to explain ways to overcome that challenge.

Pairing Younger and Older Students

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Some schools have a program that pairs older students with younger students. The older students are available to assist the younger students. How would this program help both the older and the younger students? Explain the effects of such a program on the students involved.

Pictorial Advertisement Critique

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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In a given week, we must see/hear hundreds of advertisements, whether they be on TV, on the radio, in magazines or newspapers, on billboards, or in print. Advertisers also use specific propaganda techniques, such as bandwagon, card stacking, glittering generalities, name calling, plain folks, testimonial, and transfer, in order to persuade the public to purchase the product advertised. Choose a pictorial advertisement for a particular product, and analyze the propaganda technique(s) used in the advertisement. Do you think this is an effective advertisement?

In a detailed essay, write an analysis of a specific advertisement, analyzing the message revealed through the image. Include the propaganda technique and effectiveness of the advertisement in your analysis.

Plate Tectonics and the Ring of Fire

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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The theory of plate tectonics is used to explain earthquake and volcanic activity on Earth. The Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean is an area noted for frequent earthquake and volcanic activity. How does the plate tectonics theory explain these events?

In a detailed essay, discuss the driving force behind plate tectonic activity and its contribution to the earthquake and volcanic activity experienced in the Ring of Fire. Include facts and details to support your discussion.



Protect the Watershed

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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A watershed is an area of land which drains into a body of water - creek, stream, or river. Anything on the land's surface can be carried into the body of water. In addition to affecting local water flora and fauna, a watershed frequently affects drinking water for communities.

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper persuading readers to take actions to protect the watershed. Include facts to support your views.

Re-writing a Movie

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Almost every person has watched a movie and thought to themselves “I could come up with a better story.” Imagine that a famous movie producer has called and asked you to write an improved version of a popular movie. What are some of the important changes you would make, and how would your version be better than the original?

In a detailed essay, tell of the improvements that you would make to a popular movie. Include details and examples of the changes you would make.

Relationship Between Metric Units

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Explain the relationship between centimeter, meter, and kilometer. Give examples of objects that might be measured using each unit.

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Report on the WPA - HB Unit 5 Level C

Prompt Source(s):	2	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source One:	First Sample Source: “The Dirty Thirties”
Source Lexile Level:	N/A

Source One:	Second Sample Source: “World Book” Vol. 21, page 405
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Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

Write a brief report for your class that answers the research question,

“How did the WPA help the Okies who went to California?”

Use the information provided below and add other details from your reading.

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Responding to a Quote by Muhammad Ali

Prompt Source(s):	1 quot.	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source One:	Quotation By Muhammad Ali
Source Lexile Level:	N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

“Hating people because of their color is wrong. And it doesn't matter which color does the hating. It's just plain wrong.”—Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali's quote about hating people because of their color is simple yet far-reaching. The statement, “And it doesn't matter which color does the hating” sends the message that there is no acceptable excuse for hatred, and it should not be tolerated. Ali was famous for his sayings in the 1960s and 1970s when he was celebrated as a prize-winning boxer. How meaningful to society is Ali's quote today?

In a detailed essay, discuss whether Muhammad Ali's quote about hatred is as meaningful today as it was during the 1960s and 1970s. Be sure to use facts and details from your readings and studies to support your discussion.

Rituals of the American Indian

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Throughout rituals have been important in the lives of American Indians. Through the years, some of the rituals have changed and some have been abandoned.

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In a multi-paragraph essay, compare and contrast the historical and contemporary rituals of the American Indian. Include facts, details, and examples to support your discussion.

Sharing an Important Lesson

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

You have been asked to share a lesson with elementary school students. Using specific details and examples, explain the lesson and why it would be important.

Similarities Between You and a Fictional Character

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

Sometimes people recognize similarities between themselves and a character from a book or a movie. Write about a character from a book or a movie who you think is similar to you.

What do you have in common with this character? Use specific details and examples in your response.

Sketching Across the Professions

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

Many artists throughout the course of time have created sketches as a way to work on an idea before completing the finished piece. However, sketches are not only used by artists; they can also be used by other professionals.

In an informative essay, discuss how a person other than an artist might use sketching in his or her job. Be sure to include details and examples for support.

Slavery Prior to the Civil War

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

Time magazine is preparing to print a special edition of their magazine to celebrate the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation (the executive order issued in 1863 by



President Lincoln that freed the slaves in the South). An editor from the magazine has contacted you to write an article explaining the origin of slavery and its role in the agrarian South, prior to the Civil War.

Using the teacher-provided sources, write a multi-paragraph essay explaining the perspectives of slave owners and slaves on the institution of slavery in the United States prior to the Civil War.

Small Acts of Kindness

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

Source One: Quotation By Aesop
Source Lexile Level: N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

The ancient Greek storyteller Aesop said,

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

Explain how small acts of kindness can have an impact on others. Use specific details and examples in your response.

Something I Learned

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

People learn things in school and in life. What is the most important thing you have ever learned? You may have learned how to do something or learned a valuable lesson.

Write a multi-paragraph essay about the most important lesson you have learned. Include reasons why this lesson was so important to you.

(Spanish) Favorite Form of Entertainment

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

Todos tenemos una película favorita, un libro o un programa de televisión preferido. Escribe un ensayo que esté bien desarrollado para ser leído por el director de la

escuela y que contenga el comentario de tu película favorita, tu libro o programa de televisión preferido explicando el porque elegiste este libro, película o programa.

Speaking Out in *Speak*

Prompt Source(s): 1 **Source Lexile Range:** 600L-700L

Source One: *Speak* By Laurie Halse Andersen
Source Lexile Level: 690L

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

In *Speak*, by Laurie Halse Andersen, Melinda keeps a secret about something terrible which has happened to her. This causes her friends to misunderstand her role in a situation and treat her as an outcast. When she finally speaks out, her friends' misunderstanding is corrected, they rally around her, and her life improves drastically.

In a well-developed essay, discuss how speaking out about a terrible experience in your life can help you heal and move forward.

Splitting the Class into Groups

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

Read the math problem.

A teacher wants to split the class into groups for a project. The class is made up of 24 students- 14 girls and 10 boys. If the teacher wants 6 equal groups, what is the best way to set up the groups while making the ratio of boys to girls in each group as even as possible? 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.

Standing Up for Justice

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



Source One: "The Scribe" By Kristin Hunter
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).

In the story "The Scribe" the main character James helps those less fortunate than him, the illiterate and uneducated, in an attempt to be a hero in his community.

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you describe a historical person who stood up for his or her beliefs regardless of the circumstances he or she encountered and made a difference. Be sure to include specific details and examples to support your response.

Starting and Operating Your Own Business

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine you could start your own business. What type of business would you have? What kinds of things would you need to think about prior to opening your doors for business? What supplies and additional assistance would you need?

In a well-developed essay, detail your plans for starting a new business. Include details on starting up and operating your business.

Steps to Recarpet Your Bedroom

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Explain the steps you would follow if you wanted to recarpet and repaint your bedroom.

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Summer Experiences

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Now that summer has come to an end, reflect on some of the things you did during the past three months. Did you experience something new? Did you take a trip? Did you learn any lessons since leaving school last spring?

In a detailed response, write about one of your summer experiences. Use descriptive details so readers can imagine it in their minds.

Teaching About an Artistic Medium or Genre

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

Source One: **Art Start video series**
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).

The *Art Start* video series teaches the basics of various artistic media and genres, including collage, drawing, fiber, painting, mood painting, pastels, sculpture, symbols, and sketching. Imagine that after viewing one or more of the *Art Start* videos, your art teacher assigns you to complete a short presentation teaching about an artistic medium or genre to the class. Which medium or genre would you select, and how would you present it?

In a detailed essay, discuss how you would present your chosen artistic medium or genre to your class. Include information you have learned from the video or an art class and your own experiences. Keep your tone informative, and remember to keep your audience in mind.

Teaching About an Important Individual

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

Imagine you are a teacher and you want to teach your class about an important and well-known individual not included in any textbook. What figure would you discuss with your class? What makes this person special in regards to music, science, film, government, art, or culture in general? Has this person been a part of any important or historical events, or are they a modern-day celebrity?

Write a multi-paragraph response explaining which important figure you would like to teach your students about in the classroom. Explain why it is important for your students to learn about this person. Use details and examples to support your ideas.

Teamwork - HB Unit 2 Level A

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Write an essay about teamwork. Tell your classmates what the team does. Explain why their teamwork is important.

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The Definition of Love

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Throughout people have attempted to define love through verbal expression, literary writings, and personal actions. However, each individual defines love in his or her own unique way. What is your definition of love?

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you define what love really means to you. Include specific details and examples from what you have read, heard, and experienced in your interpretation.

The End of the School Year - HB Unit 4 Level B

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Write a guide for new middle school students. Explain how to prepare for the end of the school year. Choose from the following list of ideas to help you start your guide:

1. Plan and sign up for summer jobs or activities.
2. Get a list of books to read this summer.
3. Study for and complete all final exams.
4. Turn in all make-up or extra-credit assignments.
5. Clean out your locker.

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Discuss the importance of place value and explain why the times are not recorded as whole numbers.

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.

The Importance of the Moon

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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The earth's moon is one of the most important and essential aspects of human life. Many scientists believed that the moon was formed from loose debris from the earth's formation. However, scientists now believe that the moon is actually leftover material from a massive collision that the forming Earth had with a neighboring planet. It is now theorized that this collision expanded the size of the earth by nearly 10% and allowed for land formations to appear.

The newer and more commonly believed theory of the moon's origin is called The Giant Impact Hypothesis in which the earth collided with a neighboring planet called Theia. Since the planet Theia is thought to have been about the size of Mars, the collision with the larger Earth would have been massive. During this collision, Theia plummeted into the earth's core, while a huge part of Earth and remains of Theia were ejected into Earth's atmosphere. Gravity then began to form our moon from this ejected material.

Evidence to prove this theory has been found in moon rocks collected during the Apollo 1 mission, which are composed of the same materials as Earth rocks. In addition, the orbit of the moon is gradually spinning farther away from Earth, from which we infer that the moon was very close to the earth at one time.

Once the moon was formed, it played a major role in the evolution of life on Earth. At that time, Earth was a wild and chaotic planet of magma. The collision with Theia had added more iron to the earth's core. As the earth's core cooled, outer layers of magma formed into land masses, and the temperature of the oceans and atmosphere dropped significantly. While the earth's gravity kept the moon in orbit, the moon's gravity calmed and lowered the ocean tides on Earth.

If scientists are correct and this is the true origin of our moon, how do you believe complicated life forms such as animals and plants have benefited from the moon's effects on Earth?

In a detailed essay, describe how you believe all life has benefited and continues to benefit from the moon and its formation. Include facts and details to support your description.

The Legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers

Prompt Source(s): 4 **Source Lexile Range:** 960L-1090L

Source One: “A Brief History of the Buffalo Soldiers” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 960L-1090L

Source Two: “Cathay Williams: Female Buffalo Soldier” By Vantage Learning
Source Lexile Level: 960L-1090L

Source Three: **Excerpt from *The Colored Cadet at West Point*, 1st ed.** By Henry Ossian Flipper
Source Lexile Level: 960L-1090L

Source Four: “A Triumph of Tragedy: The Life of Charles Young” video produced by the *National Park Service* staff, narrated by Tom Engberg, Park Ranger of the *National Park Service*
Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

After the Civil War, many African Americans had difficulty finding jobs, so they joined the United States Army. These black cavalry regiments, called “Buffalo Soldiers,” were sent to the Western Frontier to fight the Native Americans. Through the years, the Buffalo Soldiers left a lasting legacy due to their tireless service. Yet, what did it mean to be a Buffalo Soldier? What kind of challenges did the Buffalo Soldiers encounter?

Read the sources about the Buffalo Soldiers. In a multi-paragraph essay, analyze the Buffalo Soldiers' achievements and difficulties to explain their legacy. Be sure to include specific details from your research to support your ideas.

The Metric System

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

The adoption of the metric system has been debated internationally for many years. Currently, the metric system is used as the primary system of measurement all over the world except in the United States.

Identify and explain three ways the United States would change if it used the metric system instead of the English system.

The Mona Lisa

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

Source One: *Mona Lisa* By Leonardo da Vinci
Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* (also known as *La Gioconda*) is widely recognized throughout the world. Some even argue that it is the greatest painting ever created, and many critics focus on Mona Lisa's mysterious smile as being the painting's greatest attribute.

Consider how often the *Mona Lisa* is studied and appreciated by people in today's world. In a multi-paragraph essay, describe why you think this painting is so popular and timeless. In your response, be specific and visually descriptive, and use the artwork as a guide.

The Most Significant Chinese Discoveries or Inventions

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

Many inventions and discoveries made by the Chinese have had a major impact on the world. Archaeological and historical records confirm that the Chinese are responsible for inventions ranging from bells and pottery to printing and gunpowder.

In a detailed essay, discuss the most significant Chinese discoveries or inventions and their effects on China and the rest of the world. Include facts and details in your essay to support your discussion.

The US Justice System and The Bill of Rights

Prompt Source(s): 2 Source Lexile Range: 1400L-1500L

Source One: Excerpt from "The U.S. Bill of Rights" provided courtesy of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration
Source Lexile Level: 1490L



Source Two: **Quotation** By Thomas Jefferson
Source Lexile Level: N/A

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

“In the arguments in favor of a declaration of rights ... one which has great weight with me [is] the legal check which it puts into the hands of the judiciary.”

—Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, 1789.

The Bill of Rights provides many protections to American citizens. Explain how the Bill of Rights assures that suspects or defendants in the US justice system receive the most fair treatment possible. Be sure to discuss three different amendments and how they protect the rights of the accused in the US justice system.

Unattractive but Special

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

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

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

There is a common saying, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” Think of something that has an unattractive appearance but that has special meaning to someone for other reasons. It might be an old car, a well-used toy, a faded photograph, or something else. Identify the object and explain why it has special meaning.

Using Math to Determine the Size of an Animal Enclosure

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

Read the math problem.

A farmer has 100 feet of fencing to make an enclosure for the animals on the farm. If the farmer wants the area to be rectangular in shape, describe a few possible options and the option that might be the best solution.

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 Multiple Opinions to Make a Better Choice

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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When people ask for advice, they sometimes talk to more than one person. Explain why seeking multiple opinions can help someone make a better choice. Use specific details and examples in your response.

Value of Cooperative Learning Groups

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Teachers frequently place students into cooperative learning groups to complete assignments. Think about your experiences working in cooperative learning groups. Was your group successful in completing the assignment? How did working in the group impact your learning?

In a detailed essay, present your point of view on the value of cooperative learning groups. Use details from your experiences to support your opinion.

Volunteering in Your Community

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Performing community service is a very beneficial way to contribute to your community. Think of a specific organization in which you performed volunteer work. Or, if you have never volunteered for a specific organization, think of one in which you would like to contribute your time. Why did you choose this specific organization? How did/could your help benefit this organization? In what way did/could this experience benefit you in return?

In a detailed essay, describe a specific volunteer activity you have experienced or would like to experience. Include facts and details to support your description.

Source Three:	Excerpt from a letter addressed to her husband, Dr. Marcus Whitman By Narcissa Whitman
Source Lexile Level:	860L-1220L
Source Four:	Excerpt from letter “Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, 11 June 1812” By Thomas Jefferson
Source Lexile Level:	860L-1220L
Source Five:	Excerpt from digital transcript of letter “Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, June 20, 1803” By Thomas Jefferson
Source Lexile Level:	860L-1220L
Source Six:	<i>The Covered Wagon of the Great Western Migration. 1886 in Loup Valley, Nebr.</i> provided courtesy of the <i>U.S. National Archives and Records Administration</i>
Source Lexile Level:	N/A
Source Seven:	<i>Tent town in a mountain valley in Idaho.</i> By Burt L. Wheeler, dated Nov. 1909
Source Lexile Level:	N/A
Source Eight:	<i>Hancock homestead. Settler from Benson, Minn.</i> by Walter Lubken, dated 23 June 1910
Source Lexile Level:	N/A
Source Nine:	<i>Horsedrawn stretcher carrying a wounded man from the Battle of Slim Buttes, Dak. Terr.</i> By Morrow, dated 1876
Source Lexile Level:	N/A

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

An American pioneer family's decision to move westward was certainly a brave one. What motivated families to make this decision? What were their fears? What conditions were they willing to endure to reach the possibilities of a new life in the West?

Read and analyze what the sources reveal about the experiences of American pioneer families moving westward. In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the potential benefits and hazards of the journey westward for a pioneer family. Be sure to include and cite evidence from the sources to support your analysis of what the text says explicitly, as well as inferences you can draw from the text to support your ideas.

What is Loyalty?

Prompt Source(s):	<i>1 quot.</i>	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
Source One:	Quotation By Napoleon Hill		
Source Lexile Level:	N/A		



Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

“Lack of loyalty is one of the major causes of failure in every walk of life.” — Napoleon Hill, *Think and Grow Rich*

Loyalty is an important quality for good friends and family to have. How do you define loyalty?

Write a multi-paragraph essay exploring your own conception of what it is that makes a person loyal. Be sure to support your interpretation with specific details and examples from your own experiences or readings.

What It Means to be Patriotic

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

Patriotism means different things to different people. After researching people we call patriots, decide what you think it means to be patriotic.

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss what you think it means to be patriotic. Use facts and details from your research to support your discussion.

What Makes a Good Parent?

Prompt Source(s): 1 Source Lexile Range: 600L-700L

Source One: *P.S. Longer Letter Later* By Paula Danziger and Ann M. Martin
Source Lexile Level: 660L

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

In *P.S. Longer Letter Later*, the readers learn about some problems the main characters have with their parents: Tara's parents frequently act like children while Elizabeth's father is often absent. Think about your parents or others you have known. What do you think makes a good parent?

In a well-developed essay, discuss how you think a good parent should act. Be sure to support your position with insights you have gained from personal experience or your readings.

What Would You Like to Accomplish?

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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What is something you would like to accomplish in the future? Perhaps you would like to learn how to play an instrument, graduate at the top of your class, or visit the ocean. Identify one thing you would like to accomplish, and include specific details and examples to help explain why it is important.

What Would You Take in an Emergency?

Prompt Source(s): 0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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When there is an emergency, sometimes people need to flee their homes in only a few minutes. In that short time, they need to decide which of their possessions they will take with them, knowing that those they leave behind may be lost forever. If you had only minutes to collect possessions before evacuating your home, which items would you take? Are these items important because of their monetary or sentimental value?

In a multi-paragraph essay, discuss the possessions that you would take with you if you had to evacuate your home quickly. Explain the reasons for your selections to allow the reader to understand your choices.

Who Gives the Best Advice?

Prompt Source(s): 1 quot.	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source One: Quotation By Cicero
Source Lexile Level: N/A

Prompt includes quotation-based source(s).

The Roman philosopher Cicero wrote,

“Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself.”

However, parents, friends, and teachers often offer advice. Should people listen to their own advice or to the advice of others? Use specific details and examples to support your response.

Who Would You Like to See as President?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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We all have different ideas about what makes a good president. What do you think makes a person a good candidate for President of the United States?

Write a multi-paragraph essay in which you pick a real-life person from the past or present who you would like to see run for president. Be sure to include details that describe why that person would be a good candidate.

Why Does Extinction of a Species Occur?

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Explain why an extinction of a species occurs. Use an example you have read or heard about. Summarize what happened to the plant or animal and why.

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Winning Moment

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Whether making the game winning score for your team, or creating victory for a game or contest that you enjoy, winning moments stay with us throughout our lives. Think of a time in which your actions allowed for you or those close to you to win at something.

In a detailed essay, describe what was done to create a winning moment.

Working at Night

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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While the majority of the workforce in the United States works during the daytime hours and sleeps at night, research has revealed that approximately 20 million people in this country work at night and sleep during the day.



Think about the positive and negative aspects of each of these work patterns. Then, write a multi-paragraph essay discussing which option you would prefer for your future work life. Make sure to include details explaining the benefits of your choice.

Working on the Transcontinental Railroad

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Imagine you are a worker who helped build the first transcontinental railroad during the 1860s.

Using your readings and in-class discussions, write a multi-paragraph essay describing the conditions, workload, and treatment you experienced while building the transcontinental railroad.

Writing Metacognition Evaluation

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Review your writing portfolio from class this year. In which writing domains have you shown growth? In which domains have you shown weakness? Which piece makes you especially proud? Why?

In a multi-paragraph letter to a language arts teacher, discuss the writings in your current portfolio. Include writing domains in which you have shown growth and weakness, and discuss a piece that makes you especially proud.

Your Generation's Contributions

Prompt Source(s):	1	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Source One:	President Barack Obama's Inaugural Address (January 20, 2009)
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).

“The story of America isn't about people who quit when things got tough. It's about people who kept going, who tried harder, and who loved their country too much to do anything less than their best. It's the story of students, who sat where you sit 250 years ago, and went on to wage a revolution and found this nation. Students who sat where you sit 75 years ago who overcame a Depression and won a world war; who fought for

civil rights and put a man on the moon. Students who sat where you sit 20 years ago who founded Google, Twitter, and Facebook and changed the way we communicate with each other. So today, I want to ask you, what's your contribution going to be? What problems are you going to solve? What discoveries will you make? What will a president who comes here in twenty or fifty or one hundred years say about what all of you did for this country?"

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

Think about this excerpt from President Obama's speech. Imagine it is fifty years later and you are writing a letter to the president. In your letter, relay what contributions your generation has made in the past fifty years. Be sure to include contributions, discoveries, and/or solutions to long-standing problems in our country.

Your Local Government

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Learn about how your town's government is organized and who the town's leaders are. To show what you have learned, write a description of the local government by identifying the positions of power in the government, who holds those positions, and what their main duties and powers are. (Your town may have a Web site and other materials to help you obtain this information.)

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Your Role in an Ecosystem

Prompt Source(s):	0	Source Lexile Range:	N/A
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Define the terms producers, consumers, and decomposers as part of an ecosystem. Give examples of each. Identify your role in this system.

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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™

“Breaking Barriers”
“Cassowary: Giant Bird of the Rainforest”
Compare and Contrast Space and Oceanic Exploration
Compare and Contrast the Panama Canal and Great Wall of China
Construction Projects
“Crazy about Games”
“Egg-Laying Species”
Ellis Island
Learning from the Past
Persephone and the Four Seasons
“Rock Climbing”
Spread of the Black Death
The Bill of Rights
The Effects of Social Media on Teens
The Power of Waves
The Scientific Method

Pilot

Ancient Civilizations: The Ancient Chinese and the Great Wall of China
Comparing Artwork
Effects of Climate Change on National Parks
Extreme Weather: Understanding Hurricanes
Impact of U.S. Government Policies on Native American Populations
Man-made Waterways: China's Grand Canal and the Panama Canal
Natural Disasters: Understanding Volcanoes
Obama's Inauguration as a Moment in History
Report on the WPA - HB Unit 5 Level C
The Legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers
The Mona Lisa
The US Justice System and The Bill of Rights
Westward Journey



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

IntelliMetric™

A Good Friend
My Own "Private Island"

Pilot

Behavioral Strategies from a Video
Experiencing Different Historical Times
Fighting for Liberty: A Biography of Harriet Tubman
Is Peter Pan a Hero?
Learning about Careers
Speaking Out in Speak
Standing Up for Justice
Teaching About an Artistic Medium or Genre
What Makes a Good Parent?
Your Generation's Contributions



Appendix III: Quotation-based Prompts

IntelliMetric™

Recipe for Success

Pilot

Civil War as a Test of Democracy
Problems As Chances to do Our Best
Responding to a Quote by Muhammad Ali
Small Acts of Kindness
Unattractive but Special
What Is Loyalty?
Who Gives the Best Advice?

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

[IntelliMetric™](#)

A Career For Me
A Mentor in Your Life
A New Planet
A Prominent African American
A Role Model
A Story of Inspiration
Acts of Courage
An Activity You Do Well - HB Unit 1 Level C
An Admirable Woman in History
An Artist You Admire
An Individual Who Has Impacted History
Analysis of a Newspaper Article
Anger Management
Animal Olympics
Autobiography
Best Friends are Special People
Build a Teacher
Build Your Own Robot
Casting Call for "This is Your Life"
Causes of Good Grades
Characteristics of a President
Chronology of Boston Tea Party Events
Clocks
Conflict in Society
Conservation of Water
Critique a Field Trip
Daily Use of Transfer of Energy
Describing a Memorable Place
Describing Someone Close to You - HB Unit 1 Level A
Designing Your Dream City
Disaster Plan
Enjoying Activities, Classes, and Clubs
Extracurricular Activities in High School
Family Traditions
Favorite Hobby
Favorite Person
Geography Affects Way of Life
High School Entrance Essay
Historical Figure for a Day
How has Technology Changed Daily Life?
How is Math Used in Science?



How to Play Your Favorite Game
If I Were President
Important Inventions
Important Possession
Improvements to School Rules
Is a Driver's License Important to You?
Jet Packs
Media Influence
Middle School Changes
Music in My Life
Mythology in Advertising
Natural Disasters
Negative Effects of Electronic Communication
New Year's Resolutions
Operating a Complex Mechanical Device
Opportunities for Immigrants
People Change
Principal for a Week
Problems with a Close Friend
Qualities of a Good Listener
Reflect on Your Math Ability
Society's Biggest Problem
The California Gold Rush
The Effects of Eating Disorders on Teens
The Effects of Substance Abuse
The Holocaust: Conditions in Pre-War Germany
The Holocaust: Outside Intervention
The Story Told by Egyptian Tomb Artifacts
The Three Branches of the US Government
Tourist Attractions In World Cities
Trading Places
Treating People Better
Using the Five Themes of Geography
Visiting an Interesting Place
What Do You Desire Most?
What Have You Learned?
What If You Never Slept?
What Is Empathy?
What Kind of Artist Would You Be?
What Learning Style Best Suits You?
What Would You Tell the Founding Fathers?
What's in a Name?
Where Would You Like to Live?
Where Would You Like to Visit?

Pilot

A Character's Perseverance in a Literary Work
A Meal That Tells a Story
Are We Protecting our Freshwater Ecosystem?
Art Forms and Culture
Balancing Personal Liberty and National Security
Benefits of a Thoughtful Act
Benefits of Having a Good Attitude
Better to Take Risks?
Can Competition Improve Life?
Causes and Effects of the Crusades
Changes in the Sky
Charles Darwin, Natural Selection, and the Galapagos Islands
Collecting as a Hobby
Consumer Complaint
Contrasting the Developing Colonized Regions
Definition of Success
Describe a Mnemonic
Describe Polygons
Description of a Painting
Design a Complex Machine
Design a Neighborhood of the Future
Differences and Similarities between the Inner and Outer Planets
Directions for Staying Healthy
Dream Award
Earning Something Special
Enforcing a Stricter School Dress Code
Enjoyable Educational Activity
Enjoying Time Spent Outdoors
Explain the Simplification of a Math Expression
Favorite Activity
Feature Article Depicting an Event
Forming an Opinion on Race
Ghost Stories in Our Towns
Historic Landmarks
Homemade Gift
How an Author Can Affect Your Writing
How Art Affects My Life
How Do We Use Fractions?
How do You Feel About Public Speaking?
How Would You Change Your School?
How You Use a Talent or Skill
Human Error Causes Disaster
Identifying a New Species
Impact of a Book, Song or Movie



Impact of Religious Beliefs on Society
Impact of Settlement in the Americas
Importance of Budgeting Time
Important Archaeological Discoveries
Improving Television
Inherited and Learned Traits
Island Currency
Journal Entry of a West African
Learning a Second Language
Learning from the Experience of Others
Legendary Creatures from Folklore
Letter to a Tabloid Editor
Making the Right Decision
Maximizing Paper Airplane Flight Time
Measuring Without a Ruler
My Favorite Sports Team
My Year as an Exchange Student
Objects and Places That Symbolize a Culture
One Way You Would Like to Change the World
Overcoming a Challenge as a Student
Pairing Younger and Older Students
Pictorial Advertisement Critique
Plate Tectonics and the Ring of Fire
Principles of Physics in Star Wars
Probability in Our Lives
Protect the Watershed
Re-writing a Movie
Relationship Between Metric Units
Rituals of the American Indian
Sharing an Important Lesson
Similarities Between You and a Fictional Character
Sketching Across the Professions
Slavery Prior to the Civil War
Something I Learned
Spanish) Favorite Form of Entertainment
Splitting the Class into Groups
Starting and Operating Your Own Business
Steps to Recarpet Your Bedroom
Summer Experiences
Teaching About an Important Individual
Teamwork - HB Unit 2 Level A
The Definition of Love
The End of the School Year - HB Unit 4 Level B
The Impact of Slavery and Servitude
The Importance of Grasslands
The Importance of Place Value for Sprint Times



The Importance of the Moon
The Metric System
The Most Significant Chinese Discoveries or Inventions
Using Math to Determine the Size of an Animal Enclosure
Using Multiple Opinions to Make a Better Choice
Value of Cooperative Learning Groups
Volunteering in Your Community
War-time Event
Ways to Help Your Family Spend Less
What It Means to be Patriotic
What Would You Like to Accomplish?
What Would You Take in an Emergency?
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Winning Moment
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Your Local Government
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