

COMMON QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT: WRITING PROMPTS

NOTE: Prompts that are in plain fonts may be used at the teacher’s discretion;

bold/italicized prompts should be used as the district-wide CQAs.

<p>QUARTER</p> <p>GRADE LEVEL</p>	<p>1st CQA: narrative <i>Express and reflect</i></p>	<p>2nd CQA: explanatory/informative <i>Inform and explain</i> <i>Analyze and interpret</i></p>	<p>3rd CQA: argument/opinion <i>Take a stand/propose a solution/ report/ respond to informational and literary text, etc.</i></p>
<p>9th</p>	<p><u>Descriptive Essay</u></p> <p>Choose a book, story, or movie that is important to you. Write a narrative essay that tells the story of why it is important to you.</p> <p>Write an autobiographical narrative about an event that taught you a valuable lesson.</p> <p><i>Choose an object/possession/artifact that is important to you. Describe the object and explain the object’s importance in a narrative essay.</i></p>	<p><u>Process Essay</u></p> <p>People deal with problems throughout life. It may be losing a job, failing a class, or getting into college. Think of a problem you had to solve recently and explain how you solved it.</p> <p><i>Think of a story you have read or watched in which the main character has a significant problem he or she has to solve. In a well-written essay, explain the problem, the process, and the outcome.</i></p>	<p><u>Editorial</u></p> <p>Identify an issue in the school, community, or world that concerns you. Write a persuasive essay expressing your concern, propose a solution, and explain why your solution is best. NOTE: Teachers are encouraged to provide students with articles, video clips, and other resources to prepare them for this writing.</p> <p><i>Text-based assessment: Read the following sources and then synthesize <u>three</u> of the sources into a well-developed essay that develops a position about what are the most important issues to consider when making decisions about <u>space exploration</u>. Ensure that you develop a clear position for your essay. Use the sources to develop your position. Avoid summarizing the sources. Provide citations for the sources that you use. (Document link will be provided.)</i></p>
<p>10th</p>	<p><u>Point of View Essay</u></p> <p>Recall a children’s story, fable, or fairy tale with which you are familiar. Rewrite the story in a different time or place or from a different point of view.</p> <p><i>People often say, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.” In a well-written narrative essay, demonstrate the truth in this saying.</i></p>	<p><u>Compare/Contrast Essay</u></p> <p>Compare your view of yourself to how you think others view you. Based upon the comparison, what do you realize about yourself?</p> <p>Compare yourself to a character in a book or movie. Based on the comparisons and contrasts, explain what you have learned about yourself.</p> <p><i>Society dictates different meanings for “success.” Select two characters from literature or film who struggle to succeed. Compare and contrast their experiences and determine who is more successful by society’s standards.</i></p>	<p><u>Persuasive Essay</u></p> <p>Restrictions and safety measures have been proposed to shield students from the risks of social media. Explain the risks and benefits of social media and defend or challenge those restrictions and/or safety measures.</p> <p>Identify a social or political issue from literature you have read. Then develop an essay that challenges or defends the main position that the literature advocates.</p> <p><i>Text-based assessment: Read the following sources and then synthesize <u>three</u> of the sources into a well-developed essay that develops a position on</i></p>

			<i>the effects of advertising. Ensure that you develop a clear position for your essay. Use the sources to develop your position. Avoid summarizing the sources. Provide citations for the sources that you use. (Document link will be provided.)</i>
11 th	<p><u>Recollection Essay</u></p> <p>The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure and what you learned from this experience.</p> <p>Many stories are told of people who demonstrate courage by facing their fears. From your own or the experiences of others, recount an experience that demonstrates courage.</p> <p>Recall a significant event in history or in your own life that has impacted America or you. Recount the event and its impact in a narrative essay.</p>	<p><u>Cause/Effect Essay</u></p> <p>Consider a significant choice you have made in your life and the subsequent impact that choice had. In a well-developed essay, explore what caused you to make this choice and the effects of your decisions.</p> <p>Choose a character from history, literature, or film and discuss how his/her decisions result in his/her destruction or redemption.</p>	<p><u>Problem/Solution Paper</u></p> <p>Identify an issue in U.S. history or a current problem in America. Explore the problem in detail, provide and defend a solution.</p> <p>Text-based assessment: Read the following sources and then synthesize <u>three</u> of the sources into a well-developed essay that evaluates the most important factors a school should consider before <u>implementing technology</u> into curriculum and instruction. Ensure that you develop a clear position for your essay. Use the sources to develop your position. Avoid summarizing the sources. Provide citations for the sources that you use. (Document link will be provided.)</p>
12 th	<p><u>Reflection Essay</u></p> <p>Think about a time in your life when you have experienced injustice. Retell the experience and the impact it had on you.</p> <p>Many stories, novels, plays, or movies deal with injustices. Identify an injustice in a work you have read. Weave the story of a fictional injustice with one you have personally experienced.</p> <p>Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, which marked your transition from childhood to maturity within your culture, community, or family.</p>	<p><u>Definition Essay</u></p> <p>NOTE: The following prompt may also be used for practice writing provided that students choose to define a <i>different</i> term for their COA.</p> <p>Drawing upon your observations, experiences, and readings, write an extended definition on one of the following: excellence, happiness, persistence, vision, determination, success, failure, weakness, apathy, or boredom.</p>	<p><u>Literary Analysis</u></p> <p>One of the strongest human drives seems to be a desire for power. Write an essay in which you discuss how a character in a novel, drama, or film struggles to free himself or herself from the power of others or seeks to gain power over others. Be sure to demonstrate in your essay how the author uses this power struggle to enhance the meaning of the work.</p> <p>Text-based assessment: Reference <u>three</u> of six documents about the value of college: Read the following sources and then synthesize <u>three</u> of the sources into a well-developed essay that evaluates whether <u>college is worth its cost</u>. Ensure that you develop a clear position for your essay. Use the sources to develop your position. Avoid summarizing the sources. Provide citations for the sources that you use. (Document link will be</p>

			<i>provided.)</i>
--	--	--	-------------------

NOTE: We are not required to enter a 4th CQA for research papers since they often incorporate many of the above characteristics into one writing; however, teachers should devise fourth quarter research writing assignments.