ESSAY PROMPTS Writing Sample Questions from recent MCAS Tests

You may use these prompts for focus lesson practice drill on turning the prompt into the introductory sentence of the Essay

**Gr. 3** For this question, you will write an essay based on the passage(s). Your writing should: (*This same exact instructions precede all the essay questions*)

* **Present and develop a central idea**
* Provide evidence and/or details from the passage(s)
* Use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Prompt: Based on the passage, write an essay to explain how the author shows that Tony was a clever person. Be sure to use information from the passage to develop your essay. (one page, 2500 characters)

**2019 Gr. 4** Write an essay that explains in what ways Jean-Francois was a “seeker of knowledge.” Be sure to use information from the article to develop your essay.

Gr 4 2018 Based on “XX” write a paragraph that explains how Lucy most likely feels about the rain forest.

Gr 4 2017 Write an essay that explains how XXX has changed as he spent more time with xxx

**GRADE 5** 2019 Based on the passage and the poem, write an essay that explains how Catalina’s and the student’s feelings about their futures are similar. Be sure to use information from the passage and the poem to develop your essay.

Gr 5 2018 Based on *Hatchet* and xx, write an essay that describes the challenges that x and x face and explains how each character overcomes those challenges. Be sure to use information from both passages to develop your essay

Gr. 5 Write an essay explaining what the fable teaches about judging people too quickly. Be sure to use details from the fable to develop your essay.

Gr 5 2017 Write an essay describing how the speakers in both poems feel as they visit the museums. Be sure to use info from both poems to develop your essay (2500 characters)

**5,000 character limit:**

**GRADE 6** 2019 Based on “Shipwreck” and “Endurance, write an essay explaining whether xx was a hero. Be sure to use info from both the article and the memoir to develop your essay

Gr 6 2018 Write an essay that explains how xx in xx and the speaker in xxx feel about their heritage. Be sure to use info from both the passage and the poem to develop your essay

Gr 6 2017 Write an essay explaining how xx and xx each help the reader to understand the colonists’ challenge of living in a cold climate. Be sure to use information from both the article and the passage to develop your essay

GRADE 7

Gr 7 2019 Based on xx , Write an essay explaining the character traits that made xx a great scientist. Be sure to use information from the excerpt to develop your essay

**GRADE 8** 2019 Based on xx , Write an essay explaining the significance of the shoes to both xx and xx Be sure to use information from the short story to develop your essay

Gr 8 2018 Based on both xx and xx , Write an essay whether xx and xx were effective leaders. Be sure to use information from both excerpts to develop your essay

Gr 8 2017 Based on “To Kill a Mockingbird” and xxx , Write an essay explaining the similarities between Walter Cunningham and Robert Peck. Be sure to use information from both excerpts to develop your essay

GRADE 10

Gr 10 Essay 2019 Based on “Dracula,” xx, and xxx, Write an essay that explains how the authors’ use of sensory details helps create mood. Be sure to use information from all three passages to develop your essay

ARGUMENT writing:

Grade 10 2019 Next month your congressman will be working on an environmental protection bill. Based on “Plastic” and xxx, write a letter to your congressperson explaining the harmful effects to plastic waste. Also, explain what immediate actions should be taken and why those actions are necessary. Be sure to use evidence from both excerpts to develop your letter.

Gr 10 Argument writing

Gr 10 Based on “When Mindfulness Meets the Classroom” and “Instead of Detention,” write an editorial for your local newspaper in which you **argue** why it is important for teachers in your school to be trained in mindfulness. Be sure to use information from **both** articles to develop your editorial.

(*Tests research, writing for an audience, comparing two texts, Writing Standard 1 Argument*)