

**Released Writing Prompts
Grades 7 and 8
2008-2009**

Persuasive Essay (Grades 7 and 8)

Requiring seat belts in school buses is an issue with which schools struggle. Some people believe seat belts are necessary and others do not. Decide what you think about this issue and write an essay convincing others to agree with your opinion.

Expository Essay (Grades 7 and 8)

Think of the most valuable object you own that was not bought in a store. Explain why it is important to you.

If time travel were possible, would you choose to travel to a different time period and stay there? Explain your choice.

Many kids hear adults talk about "the good old days." Do you think life was better when those adults were teenagers or is it better now? Explain what you think.

There are many different ways to be successful. Explain what success means to you.

Formal Letter (Grade 7 only)

Think of changes you would like to make to your school's cafeteria menu. Write a letter to the Director of Food Services in your school district requesting those changes.

Think of an unusual experience you have had at a restaurant. Write a letter to the manager of the restaurant describing your experience.

You see a "Help Wanted" sign at a local business where you would like to work. Write a letter to that business telling why you would be a good employee.

Personal Narrative (Grades 8 only)

A tradition is something you do the same way every time. You can have personal traditions such as getting ready for bed, friendship traditions such as developing a special handshake, or family traditions such as serving special food on a particular day. Write about one tradition from your own life.

Think about a time you were able to teach someone a skill. Write about that experience.

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Personal Narrative (Grades 8 only)

When you hear the word "laughter," what event do you think of? Write about a personal experience where either you or someone else was really laughing.

Think of a time when you spent time with an animal. Write about that experience.