

### Notes to teacher:

Last year I moved to fifth grade for the first time in 10 years, and things have changed since I last taught fifth! Namely, the text based writing. I had a terrible time finding prompts and passages for my students, so I ended up writing a lot of my own. I wanted to find topics that are engaging and interesting and not the same old ones we always see. I found that our writing time was also great for discussions, debates, and digging into real issues. Although we are required to teach students how to write the essays, I wanted it to be more than just test prep.

-This pack does not give a how to. (I'm still figuring out what works for me and wouldn't feel comfortable telling you what to do.) This is simply a set of passages with one prompt. The total word count for the passages is 1,211. Use it as a practice test or with your own writing instruction. I included the writing pages and planning sheet similar to the FSA (the Florida writing test) in case you want to make it a writing simulation. For most prompts, we did our writing in our notebook to save paper, but as we neared test time, I wanted students to be familiar with the constraints of the test. Many of my students had to adjust to only being able to write in the three lined pages.

### Note about author names:

I wrote all of these articles myself, but I used pseudonyms because I teach students to cite the author's names, and I thought it would be awkward if they all had the same author.

### Sources:

These are the different sources I used for these articles.

1. <https://www.livescience.com/63608-bfr-moon-passenger-revealed-spacex.html>
2. <https://phys.org/news/2018-09-moon-space-tourism.html>
3. [https://www.cleveland.com/travel/index.ssf/2018/09/is\\_space\\_the\\_tourists\\_new\\_play.html](https://www.cleveland.com/travel/index.ssf/2018/09/is_space_the_tourists_new_play.html)
4. <https://www.ucf.edu/pegasus/space-tourism/>
5. <https://www.space.com/28051-why-space-tourism-will-succeed.html>
6. <http://www.spaceflightinsider.com/sponsored-content/will-space-tourism-ever-happen/>
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/2012/jun/17/space-tourism-science-virgin-robin-mckie>
8. <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20140408-six-reasons-space-tourism-matters>
9. <https://www.britannica.com/science/space-exploration/Human-beings-in-space-debate-and-consequences>
10. <http://www.cnn.com/fyi/interactive/specials/space/stories/space.tourist.html>
11. <http://theconversation.com/space-tourism-economics-financing-and-regulating-trips-to-the-final-frontier-100428>
12. <https://theconversation.com/space-tourism-could-help-boost-science-and-health-research-heres-how-79812>
13. [http://www.spacefuture.com/archive/the\\_economic\\_benefits\\_of\\_space\\_tourism.shtml](http://www.spacefuture.com/archive/the_economic_benefits_of_space_tourism.shtml)

### Thank you!

Thank you for purchasing this resource. I hope you and your students enjoyed the topic! I have more in the works including several social studies topics. If you have any suggestions for topics or prompts, feel free to e-mail me at [sarah@morethanaworksheet.com](mailto:sarah@morethanaworksheet.com).

Hope you're having a great year!  
Sarah

Read the “Should Space Tourism Be Legal?” passage set.

## Should Space Tourism Be Legal?

### Source 1: Space Travel—Worth the Cost?

by Sarah Wiggins

- 1 Humans are curious creatures. It is in our nature to ask questions and explore the world around us. Humans are also adventure seeking. We surf giant waves and climb treacherous mountains. One new industry claims to have just the thing for all of the curious explorers and adventurers out there: space travel.
- 2 While space travel used to be limited to highly trained astronauts, several companies are offering tickets to space for the rest of us. The catch? To experience astronomical travel, you must pay an astronomical price. Virgin Galactic has reportedly sold 700 tickets costing at least \$200,000 each.
- 3 Not everyone in the world is able to afford the ticket, but for those who can, it promises to be an out of this world experience. Travelers will experience six minutes of zero gravity. They will also have the opportunity to view the earth from above.
- 4 The price may seem outrageous now, but as the space tourism industry expands, experts are certain the cost will go down. Any new technology or experience is much more expensive when it first begins. For instance, the price of an international airplane flight in the 1930’s would equal about \$20,000 in today’s currency.
- 5 So why invest in an industry that offers an expensive thrill ride for an elite few? It is impossible to know the future of space tourism, but it has the potential to be life changing. What if space tourism grows like the airline industry? Not only would this create many jobs, but it could open doors for so much more.
- 6 Space tourism will encourage exploration and discovery. Perhaps there are new minerals waiting to be discovered. Maybe we could find ways to colonize the moon or other planets. What if there really is life out there? There are so many possibilities. Until now, the exploration has been limited to a handful of astronauts. When we open the doors of discovery to others, the potential is endless. Some might even say priceless.

Read the “Should Space Tourism Be Legal?” passage set.

## Should Space Tourism Be Legal?

### Source 2: Pros and Cons of Space Tourism

by Ross Gellar

- 7 The tourist industry in the world is humongous. It includes hotels, airlines, tour companies, cruise lines, rental cars, theme parks, and countless other businesses and activities. According to statistics from the World Travel and Tourism council, in 2015, the tourism industry brought in more than seven trillion dollars. Additionally, it generated 284 million jobs.
- 8 Dr. Alan Fyall, a professor at the University of Central Florida suggests, “There’s every reason to believe that commercial space travel will have a similar impact on the economy.” Space tourism could boost industry and create new jobs. It could bring in a lot of money for many countries.
- 9 Fyall also points out potential benefits for the environment. “Space travelers will gain a deeper appreciation for our planet and hopefully want to take a more active approach to protecting it.” This could lead to innovative solutions to problems such as pollution and global warming. It might encourage more people to take care of the earth.
- 10 Similarly, NASA Astronaut Anna Lee Fisher believes that space tourism will have a positive impact on humanity. “I seriously believe that if more people had the opportunity to go into space and see the Earth from that vantage point they would definitely stop thinking of themselves as being from this country or that country and slowly start feeling like they’re just from this planet.” This could ultimately lead to a more peaceful world.
- 11 Dr. Asli D.A. Tasci, an associate professor at UCF views the space tourism debate differently. She states, “Commercial space travel by civilians is a dangerous endeavor, not only for humans but also for our planet.” She mentions the deadly rocket crash of the VSS Enterprise where the pilot was seriously injured, and the co-pilot died. There are also unknown health risks for sending just anyone into space.
- 12 Former NASA astronaut Sherwood “Woody” Spring warns “When you get into orbit, 99 percent of astronauts go through what we call ‘space adaptation syndrome’; some people throw up, some don’t, but you’re probably not going to feel well the first two days.” He describes it similar to a mild flu.
- 13 In terms of our planet, there are dangers there, too. Dr. Tasci points out that soot or black carbon is released into the atmosphere when rockets are launched. It can stick around and result in dangerous climate change. With more companies jumping on board, this could potentially lead to a lot of pollution.
- 14 One one hand, space tourism could possibly boost the economy, spark a global interest in conserving the earth, and help build a sense of world community. On the other hand, it is potentially dangerous to both humans and the planet. We are in the early stages of a new frontier, and there are still a lot of questions to be answered.

Read the “Should Space Tourism Be Legal?” passage set.

## Should Space Tourism Be Legal?

### Source 3: So You Want to Travel in Space?

by Rachel Green

- 15        So you want to be an astronaut? The standards are tough, and the training is rigorous. NASA will not accept just anyone into the training program. As a minimum, astronaut hopefuls must have a four year bachelor’s degree in engineering or other scientific fields. Many have even more advanced degrees which require additional years of study. They must be in top physical condition, and they must have a personality that works well with others and can handle the pressures of space travel. These are just the requirements to be accepted into the program.
- 16        Once you are accepted, this does not guarantee that you will travel to space. You are required to take more classes. You must participate in military survival training. You are required to become a certified scuba diver and a trained pilot. You also have to complete spacewalk simulations, endure high and low atmospheric pressure, and complete other physically challenging tasks. It may be years before you are chosen for a mission if you are chosen at all. In the past, this was the only way you could make it to space.
- 17        Now, there are companies working to develop space travel for civilians, or non astronauts. This means regular people may have the opportunity to orbit the earth. There are concerns about the safety of space travel for the average person. The physical requirements set by NASA are designed to ensure safety. Space tourism companies will provide training to potential space travelers, but it will not be as extensive or comprehensive as NASA’s training.
- 18        Since space tourism is such a new idea, there is not a lot of research. All of the studies on the effects of space on humans has been completed on professionally trained astronauts. They are in optimal physical and mental health. According to an article from Reuters, “Space tourists will likely be a much more diverse group, with a broader range of health conditions.” This means, we just don’t know how space will affect the average citizen in less than perfect health.
- 19        Increased g-forces and motion sickness are two concerns. Also, space radiation may interfere with implanted medical devices such as artificial knees or screws and pins used to repair bone fractures. Aside from the physical aspects, another concern is that passengers might behave unpredictably when stuck on a spaceship traveling at high speeds away from earth. Will people suddenly feel claustrophobic and panic? The bottom line: There’s just not enough information to determine if space tourism is safe for the average citizen.

# Writing Prompt

Congress is meeting to discuss whether or not average citizens should be allowed to travel in space. Write an essay for Congress in which you give your opinion about whether or not space tourism should be allowed by law. Use information from the passage in your essay.

Manage your time carefully so that you can

- read the passages;
- plan your response;
- write your response; and
- revise and edit your response.

Be sure to include

- an introduction;
- support for your opinion using information from the passages;  
and
- a conclusion that is related to your opinion.

Your response should be in the form of a multiparagraph essay. Write your response in the space provided.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

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STUDENT NAME\_\_\_\_\_

## PLANNING SHEET

Use this sheet to plan what you will write. The writing on this sheet will NOT be scored.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.

**This sheet will NOT be scored.**

Learning is... so much MORE Than a Worksheet!

# Thank you!!

Thank you so much for downloading this resource! I hope that you and your students love it. I am so honored that you took the time out of your busy day to visit my store.

**Happy Teaching!**

~Sarah



PS: I would LOVE to see pics of how you use my resources in your classroom!

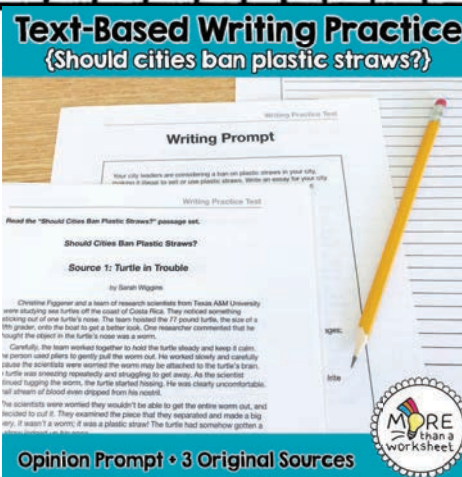
If you are on Instagram, feel free to tag me @morethanaworksheet. I'm also on Facebook and Twitter!

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**Text-Based Writing Practice**  
(Should cities ban plastic straws?)

Writing Prompt

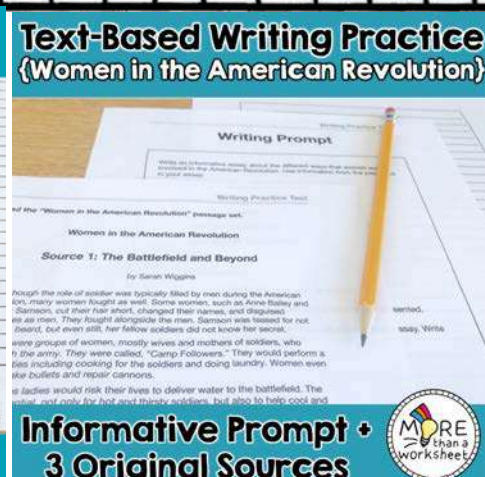
Opinion Prompt • 3 Original Sources



**Text-Based Writing Practice**  
(Women in the American Revolution)

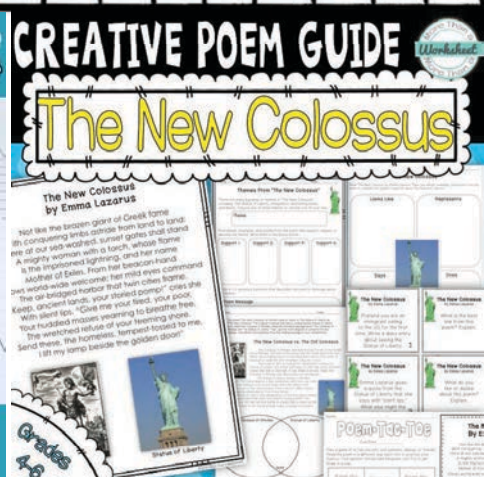
Writing Prompt

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**CREATIVE POEM GUIDE**  
*The New Colossus*

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