

American Literature Prompts

1. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

Your school is considering adopting a policy that requires all students to complete 100 hours of community service during their high school careers in order to graduate. The district has asked for student input at the next school board meeting as to whether or not they should adopt this policy. Research the topic, decide whether you are in favor of or against the new policy, and write a five-paragraph persuasive speech that you will deliver to the school board members and your principal.

Alternate 1:

Many people believe that television violence has a negative effect on society because it promotes violence. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons and examples to support your response.

2. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

Imagine that your local library has invited members of your community to submit proposals for a fundraiser. You are the student representative on the committee to choose the best proposal. Read the two proposals below, paying close attention to their similarities and differences. Consider whether or not each proposal is logistically feasible, which fundraiser will most appeal to members of your community, and which fundraiser will likely raise more money. Which proposal do you think the committee should choose? Write an essay in which you make a case for your choice. Support your argument with references to specific details in each proposal.

Proposal 1

The best way to get people invested in the library is to show them the joy of reading. For that reason, the library should hold a book sale. People could donate books that they no longer want, and the librarians could find books that the library no longer needs. Volunteers will need to sort the books into categories and arrange them in an inviting way, like at a bookstore. Books should be inexpensive, so people buy more—maybe fifty cents for paperbacks and two dollars for hardcover books. A book sale would appeal to people of all ages, from little kids to the elderly. There should also be a table where people can sign up for library cards. That way, if visitors don't find any books they want at the sale, they can come back to the library.

Proposal 2

A great way to make money for the library would be by holding a car wash. The softball team at my school raised over \$400 dollars at their car wash last year! The car wash could be held in the library parking lot on a Saturday morning. You could ask local high school students to volunteer to wash the cars. That would be a great way to get students involved with the library. It takes two or three volunteers to wash a car quickly, so you would need at least ten volunteers. You could charge around ten dollars per car. Even people who aren't very interested in reading like to have a clean car, so you would get a lot of people to stop by who might not otherwise come to a library fundraiser.

Alternate:

As part of the "war on drugs" and in reaction to an increase in school violence, many schools across the nation now conduct targeted searches of student lockers and backpacks. Although the Supreme Court has ruled that public school officials have the right to search students' persons and property when they have reasonable cause to suspect weapons or drugs, many people feel this is a gross violation of students' right to privacy. Others feel that since school officials are responsible for the well-being of students while they are in the building, they have the right to search for drugs or weapons at any time. How do you feel about this issue? State your position and explain your reasons with specific examples.

3. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

Health care costs in the United States are on the rise. Some people say that a universal health care system would bring costs down and increase access to care. Others say it would be too expensive and would reduce the quality of care. Examine editorials from both sides of the argument. Then, write a five-paragraph essay in which you compare and contrast each argument in terms of objectivity and the types of evidence presented. Evaluate and explain how the sources use effective evidence to support their claims.

Alternate:

In many countries, citizens are required to serve in the military for a year or more. Do you believe the United States should institute a similar practice? Why or why not? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer

4. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

American poets, novelists, and other writers often write about the topic of American identity. In this lesson, you have read excerpts from two texts, “Response to Executive Order 9066” by Dwight Okita, and “Mericans” by Sandra Cisneros. Determine a common theme that both authors establish about the topic of American identity. In a five-paragraph literary analysis essay, explain how each author develops the common theme. Compare and contrast how the authors develop this theme by referencing specific literary devices and techniques in your response.

Alternate:

Choose two texts (novels, poems, short stories, or dramas), or two films, that share a common theme. In a five paragraph essay, explain how each text or film develops this theme. Compare and contrast this theme by referencing literary techniques (characterization, elements of plot, conflict, and so on) in your response.

British Literature

1. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

Write two paragraphs that analyze two points about why Gilgamesh is an epic hero. Be sure to use more than one example from the text to support each point.

2. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

Write an informative essay explaining what has caused the English spoken today to be different from the English spoken in earlier centuries.

Alternate:

Write an essay explaining the effects of this twentieth century technological change on American life.

Alternate:

Write an essay explaining what makes a great leader. Provide specific details and examples of someone whom you think exhibits this qualities.

5. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

Write an argumentative essay in which you state and defend a claim about whether it is ethical to target uninformed consumers.

Alternate:

Some people feel that the public school system does not adequately prepare students for the real world. Identify one improvement you think schools need to make in order to better prepare students for life after high school. Write a letter to the school board in which you describe this improvement and explain why it is needed.

Alternate:

According to some health organizations, many foods on our grocery store shelves are made with genetically modified ingredients. Most of these foods, however, do not have a GMO (genetically modified organism) label. Do you think there should be a law requiring manufacturers to label foods containing GMOs? Use specific reasons and examples to support your position

Alternate:

Representatives of credit card companies can often be found on college campuses offering special incentives to get students to fill out credit card applications. Many people feel that this takes advantage of students, who are often low on cash during their college years. Others feel that it is an excellent way to help students begin to build credit and learn financial responsibility. How do you feel about this issue? Take a position and use specific reasons and examples to support your argument.

3. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

Write a formal persuasive e-mail to a community leader to address a social concern.

4. **Edgenuity Prompt:**

Write a personal statement about how your education has prepared you to take on your next step after high school.