

25 Prompts for Writing Practice

If you find that timed writing makes you nervous, you aren't alone. However, practicing is a great way to prepare. By imitating the test environment, you can grow more comfortable with what the day of the test will be like. To simulate a testing environment, prepare materials ahead of time (computer or pen and paper, timer, prompt) and set your timer based on how long you will have to complete the essay portion of your exam.

Remember, if you run out of time during practice, that's ok! Review what you accomplished and plan how you can work faster next time.

Note: The GED essay section is 45 minutes. The GKT essay subtest is 50 minutes.

1. Low student attendance is a detriment to learning. Propose a plan for improving student attendance and explain why your strategy would be effective.
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of assigning students homework. Should grade school teachers (K-12) still assign their students homework?
3. Artificial intelligence is becoming a part of everyday life. Compose an essay that details at least three ways in which AI could be incorporated into a classroom to support student learning.
4. There are a variety of reasons that a student might be unable to receive the education they need and deserve during grade school. Analyze the causes of a modern-day barrier to education.
5. Uniforms are still required in some schools, while they are optional in others. Decide whether uniforms should be required in grade school and provide reasoned support for your position.
6. Standardized testing is the practice of giving students tests to determine whether they are achieving the learning standards at grade-level. However, not everyone believes that this practice should continue. Should standardized testing impact grade promotion? Why or why not?
7. Remote learning allowed students to continue education when it was unsafe to attend in-person classes. It also allowed teachers to remain employed while helping their students progress. Should more schools continue to offer remote learning? Provide reasoned support for your argument.
8. How grade schools discipline children is a controversial issue. In a thoughtful essay with clear reasoning, analyze and evaluate the concerns of those who are for and against suspending students from school.

9. School schedules continue to be a topic of debate, including what time of day school begins, the length of school days, and even how many days a week students should attend school. Explain the ideal school schedule for students in grades nine through twelve and why this is the best schedule.
10. The current age for citizens to register to vote in the United States of America is eighteen years of age. Whether this is the appropriate age has been a topic of debate for some time. There are varying opinions, with some who believe that the age to register should stay where it is, while others believe it should be raised, and still others recommend that the age to register be lowered. Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of at least two of these options and evaluate the stronger option between the two.
11. Students face bullying at school, but they also encounter bullies outside of school and even online. Write an essay which proposes and supports one or more ways that schools can help reduce the rate of bullying.
12. Now more than ever, technology is a part of everyday life. Explain at least two ways that technology can be incorporated into a classroom to enrich the learning environment.
13. Students in different grade levels are expected to turn in work that has been typed on a computer. Since this is an important skill, at what grade level should students begin learning to type? Make sure to provide reasoned evidence for your position.
14. Extracurricular activities can enrich a student's social life and allow them to explore further interests. However, there is also a risk that participating in such activities will negatively impact a student's performance in school. How can a student maintain school performance while joining in extracurricular activities?
15. Before we had access to digital books, schools could only offer physical versions of textbooks. Compare the strengths and weaknesses of continuing the use of physical textbooks in grade school to the strengths and weaknesses of switching to the use of digital textbooks in school.
16. In recent years, legislation and streaming platforms have addressed the problem of advertising directly to children. If content is monetized with ads and that content is aimed at children, then the advertisements are also targeted towards children. Examine why advertising directly to children could be a problem and recommend at least one reasonable solution.
17. The censorship of student newspapers has made headlines and lead to many debates. Should grade schools be able to censor student newspapers? Provide evidence and reasoning as support.

18. While social media provides a way to connect with others and expand one's social circle, it can also have negative impacts on an individual's mental health. Explain and promote at least one way that social media can be used while minimizing the risks to one's mental health.
19. From a young age, sometimes age five or younger, children may be heavily involved in sports and continue this hobby in order to become a professional athlete. What are the benefits and risks of involving children in sports from an early age? Do the risks outweigh the benefits?
20. Plastic is a man-made material that does not decompose the same as other organic materials. As a result, it takes up space in landfills and causes harm to the environment. In a well-structured essay with supporting details, explain who or what is the greatest contributor to plastic pollution and what steps can be taken for them to correct the problem.
21. Minimum wage is the lowest amount an employer can pay an employee per hour. As of 2009, the United States Federal Minimum wage rate is \$ 7.25 per hour (*U.S. Dept. of Labor*). Many states have their own wage rates. While these rates are often above the federal minimum, some fall below it. Should the federal minimum wage rate be raised? Provide reasoned support for your position.
22. During the pandemic, much of the population shifted to working from home. Since then, more people continue to work from home than before the pandemic. Compare the benefits and risks of these two work environments.
23. In order to attend and complete college, many students take on loans which results in debt after college. Should student debt be forgiven by the United States of America? Why or why not?
24. Schools usually have one or more policies which hold students, teachers, and staff to a standard of academic honesty, such as the prohibition of cheating on classwork. What counts as cheating? What doesn't count as cheating? Provide specific examples to support your definition.
25. Renewable energy refers to energy that does not have a finite amount available for use. Examples include solar power and wind power. Evaluate whether the United States of America should adjust to only use renewable energy. Provide reasoned support for your position.