

On-Demand Scrimmage Prompts for High School

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read both prompts carefully.
2. Look for **SPAM**: The situation is labeled. The other three are found in the writing task.

Situation (the event that creates the need to communicate)

Purpose (why you're writing: to persuade; to narrate an event; to respond to a text; a graphic; or a chart)

Audience (to whom you're writing)

Mode (what you're writing: letter; feature article; editorial; speech)

PROMPT CHOICE #1

Situation:

Lately there have been some television shows on channels like "The Comedy Channel" and "MTV" that pull crazy stunts that they warn should not be tried at home. Some pick on perfect strangers. Others border on risky and dangerous behavior for the pranksters, themselves. Recently, MTV removed one of these shows from the air due to the fact that too many teens copied the pranks they saw on that show and either got hurt themselves or hurt others.

Writing Task:

Write a letter to the executives at MTV supporting your opinion about whether or not you think Johnny Knoxville's show should have been removed from the air (**shouldn't there be an explanation here of who this person is??**).

PROMPT CHOICE #2

Situation:

Your grandfather is always saying, "You can't steal second if you have one foot on first." By this, he means if you want to step ahead in life, you have to take chances. You have classmates with all kinds of talents and gifts, but some may never take any risks and therefore limit their opportunities to grow and experience success.

Writing Task:

Write a speech that you will deliver at your graduation. Persuade your classmates to set goals, take risks, and succeed. Use your grandfather's quote as the title of your speech.

On-Demand Scrimmage Prompts for Elementary School

DIRECTIONS:

Choose one prompt. Select the one you feel the most strongly about and that gives you the most ideas to write about.

PROMPT CHOICE #1

Situation:

Leaders in your town have a plan to build an exercise center for local families. It will have basketball courts, exercise rooms, and an Olympic-sized swimming pool. They will need more money, though, to put this plan into action.

Writing Task:

Write a letter to your local newspaper. Persuade your neighbors and local businesses to donate money to help build this exercise center. Help them see how this would benefit the people in your county.

PROMPT CHOICE #2

Situation:

There are many retired adults who are afraid to try the computer.

Writing Task:

Write a feature article for the AARP magazine persuading those seniors to try to use a computer. Explain the ways in which it will make their lives easier, and how learning to use one is not as difficult as they think.

On-Demand Scrimmage Prompts (Personal Writing) for Upper Primary through 6th Grades

DIRECTIONS:

Carefully read both prompts. Choose one to do. Be sure that you understand the prompt and have something to say in your piece. Pre write, draft, revise, and edit before you do your final copy. You have at least 90 minutes.

PROMPT CHOICE #1

Situation:

“I Love to Laugh Day” is coming on August 13th. Your school paper is publishing personal narratives written by students about some of their funniest memories.

Writing Task:

Think of a time when you were SO tickled that you just couldn’t stop laughing. Maybe it happened to you or maybe you saw it happen to someone else. Write a personal narrative for kids who read your school paper. Try to make them laugh like you did by including some of your funniest details about the event. Help them to see, hear, taste, smell, and touch the funny event. Share your funny thoughts, dialogue, and actions.

PROMPT CHOICE #2

Situation:

For “Grandparent’s Day”, your teacher is collecting memoirs. She will put together several notebooks containing copies of the published pieces that will be placed in rest homes and senior citizens centers throughout the county. Those who are lonely on Grandparent’s Day will be able to read your memoirs.

Writing Task:

Write a memoir about one of your grandparents. If you don’t have a grandparent to write about, choose a person who is like a grandparent to you. Complete the sentence below and then tell stories and give examples to help your audience see why your grandparent is important in your life.

_____ is important in my life (because/but)
_____.

Examples:

Grandpa is important in my life because he makes me laugh.
Grandpa is important in my life, but he is kind of grouchy sometimes.