300 Questions and Images to Inspire Argument Writing

Technology & Social Media

Article-Based Prompts

- **1.** How Worried Should We Be About Screen Time During the Pandemic?
- 2. How Do You Feel About Cancel Culture?
- 3. Do Memes Make the Internet a Better Place?
- **4.** <u>Does Online Public Shaming Prevent Us From</u> Being Able to Grow and Change?
- **5.** How Young Is Too Young to Use Social Media?
- **6.** Where Should We Draw the Line Between Community Health and Safety and Individual Liberty and Privacy?
- **7.** <u>Do You Think Online Conspiracy Theories Can</u> Be Dangerous?
- **8.** What Do You Think of the Decision by Tech Companies to Block President Trump?
- **9.** Should the Adults in Your Life Be Worried by How Much You Use Your Phone?
- **10.** <u>Is Your Phone Love Hurting Your Relationships?</u>
- 11. Do You Trust Facebook?
- 12. Do You Think Recreational Drones Are Safe?
- 13. Should Kids Be Social Media Influencers?
- **14.** <u>Does Grammar Still Matter in the Age of Twitter?</u>
- **15.** Should Texting While Driving Be Treated Like Drunken Driving?
- **16.** How Do You Think Technology Affects Dating?

Image-Based Prompts

- **17.** Online Video Games: Does more need to be done to make online gaming communities safer?
- **18.** A Computer in Everything: Do "smart" devices worry you?
- **19.** Snail Mail: Do you think handwritten cards and letters still have value in the digital age?
- **20.** Cyberbullying: Should social media companies do more to prevent online harassment?
- **21.** Phone Manners: Are there times when you think using your phone while you're with other people is rude?
- **22.** <u>Alarm Clocks</u>: Are there any "dumb" devices that you think are better than "smart" devices?

- **23.** Phone Warnings: Should tech devices come with addiction advisories?
- **24.** Phones in Church: Are there some places where phones just don't belong?
- **25.** <u>Driverless Cars</u>: What do you think about driverless cars?
- **26.** Texting While Walking: Should looking at your phone while crossing the street be illegal?
- **27.** <u>Device Addiction?</u>: As a society, are we too addicted to our devices?
- **28.** <u>'A Man Needs His Nuggs'</u>: What do you think of Carter Wilkerson's quest, and its results?
- **29.** <u>Soothing Video Games</u>: Can video games intended to calm the mind be fun? Worthwhile?
- **30.** Our Lives on Social Media: How much do you think we can judge our collective happiness by what is posted on social media?
- **31.** <u>'Bracelet of Silence'</u>: Would you wear privacy armor?
- **32.** Baby Yoda: What are your favorite memes?
- **33.** <u>Tesla's 'Cybertruck'</u>: What do you think of this "pickup of the future"?
- **34.** The 'Bird Box' Challenge: What do you think of social media challenges like this one?

School

Article-Based Prompts

- **35.** Should Media Literacy Be a Required Course in School?
- **36.** <u>Should Schools Be Able to Discipline</u> <u>Students for What They Say on Social Media?</u>
- **37.** How Should Schools Hold Students Accountable for Hurting Others?
- **38.** Should Schools Provide Free Pads and Tampons?
- **39.** Can Empathy Be Taught? Should Schools Try to Help Us Feel One Another's Pain?
- **40.** When the Pandemic Ends, Will School Change Forever?
- **41.** Should Schools Change How They Grade Students During the Pandemic?
- **42.** Should Students Be Monitored When Taking Online Tests?
- **43.** Should There Still Be Snow Days?

- **44.** How Should Racial Slurs in Literature Be Handled in the Classroom?
- **45.** Should Teachers Be Allowed to Wear Political Symbols?
- **46.** Should Schools or Employers Be Allowed to Tell People How They Should Wear Their Hair?
- **47.** Are Straight A's Always a Good Thing?
- 48. Should Schools Teach You How to Be Happy?
- **49.** How Do You Think American Education Could Be Improved?
- **50.** Should Schools Test Their Students for Nicotine and Drug Use?
- **51.** Can Social Media Be a Tool for Learning and Growth in Schools?
- **52.** <u>Should Facial Recognition Technology Be</u> <u>Used in Schools?</u>
- **53.** Should Your School Day Start Later?
- 54. Should Yearbooks Include Political News?
- **55.** How Should Senior Year in High School Be Spent?
- **56.** Should Teachers Be Armed With Guns?
- **57.** Is School a Place for Self-Expression?
- **58.** Should Students Be Punished for Not Having Lunch Money?
- **59.** <u>Is Live-Streaming Classrooms a Good Idea?</u>
- **60.** <u>Should Gifted and Talented Education Be</u> Eliminated?
- **61.** What Are the Most Important Things Students Should Learn in School?
- **62.** <u>Should Schools Be Allowed to Censor Student Newspapers?</u>
- **63.** Do You Feel Your School and Teachers
 Welcome Both Conservative and Liberal Points
 of View?
- **64.** <u>Should Teachers and Professors Ban Student Use of Laptops in Class?</u>
- **65.** <u>Should Schools Teach About Climate Change?</u>
- **66.** Should All Schools Offer Music Programs?
- **67.** Does Your School Need More Money?
- 68. Should All Schools Teach Cursive?
- **69.** What Role Should Textbooks Play in Education?
- **70.** Do Kids Need Recess?
- **71.** Should Public Preschool Be a Right for All Children?

Image-Based Prompts

- **72.** <u>Graduation in a Pandemic</u>: Is your school doing enough to honor seniors?
- **73.** Most Challenged Books: Are there books that don't belong in schools or public libraries?
- **74.** Mascot: If you could choose one mascot to represent your school, what would it be?
- 75. Math: How do you feel about math?
- **76.** <u>Sleep Deprivation</u>: Do you think school should start later for teenagers?
- **77.** <u>Standardized Tests</u>: Is there too much testing at your school? Why or why not?
- **78.** <u>Teacher Walkouts</u>: Do you think teachers should be paid more? Why or why not?
- **79.** Mermaid School: If there could be a special school that would teach you something you really want to learn, what would that school be?

Coronavirus

Article-Based Prompts

- **80.** What Weaknesses and Strengths About Our World Are Being Exposed by This Pandemic?
- **81.** As Coronavirus Cases Surge, How Should Leaders Decide What Stays Open and What Closes?
- **82.** How Should We Balance Safety and Urgency in Developing a Covid-19 Vaccine?
- **83.** <u>Do You Want Your Parents and Grandparents to Get the New Coronavirus Vaccine?</u>
- **84.** Do You Think People Have Gotten Too Relaxed About Covid?
- **85.** How Do You Feel About Mask-Slipping?

- **86.** Surge: How should the United States keep the coronavirus pandemic at bay?
- **87.** Masks: What "civic rules" do you think we should all follow now?
- **88.** Paid to Laugh: Would you attend a live TV show taping if you got money for it?
- **89.** <u>Dolly's Donation</u>: How do you feel about celebrity philanthropy?
- **90.** Crowds and Covid: How do you feel about crowds during the pandemic?
- **91.** Going Nowhere Fast: Would you take a flight to nowhere?

College & Career

Article-Based Prompts

- **92.** Should Students Be Required to Take the SAT and ACT to Apply to College?
- **93.** Should National Service Be Required for All Young Americans?
- **94.** What Is Your Reaction to the College Admissions Cheating Scandal?
- **95.** Is the College Admissions Process Fair?
- **96.** Should Everyone Go to College?
- **97.** Should College Be Free?
- **98.** Are Lavish Amenities on College Campuses Useful or Frivolous?
- **99.** Should 'Despised Dissenters' Be Allowed to Speak on College Campuses?
- **100.** How Should the Problem of Sexual Assault on Campuses Be Addressed?
- **101.** Should Fraternities Be Abolished?
- 102. Is Student Debt Worth It?
- **103.** Do Other People Care Too Much About

Your Post-High School Plans?

104. Should All Young People Learn How to Invest in the Stock Market?

Image-Based Prompts

105. <u>Jack-of-All-Trades</u>: Is it better to focus on one thing early in life and get really good at it?

Mental & Physical Health

Article-Based Prompts

- **106.** Should Students Get Mental Health Days Off From School?
- **107.** Is Struggle Essential to Happiness?
- **108.** <u>Does Every Country Need a 'Loneliness</u> Minister'?
- 109. Should Schools Teach Mindfulness?
- **110.** Should All Children Be Vaccinated?
- 111. What Do You Think About Vegetarianism?
- 112. Do We Worry Too Much About Germs?
- 113. What Advice Should Parents and

Counselors Give Teenagers About Sexting?

- **114.** Are Emotional-Support Animals a Scam?
- **115.** Do You Believe in Manifesting?

Image-Based Prompts

- **116.** Optimism: Is your glass half-empty or half-full?
- **117.** <u>Cursing</u>: Is it ever OK, useful or even healthy to curse? Or is it always inappropriate? **118.** <u>Anger Rooms</u>: Do you think places like this

are a good idea?

Race & Gender

Article-Based Prompts

- **119.** What Is Your Reaction to the Days of Protest That Followed the Death of George Floyd?
- **120.** How Should Parents Teach Their Children About Race and Racism?
- **121.** Is America 'Backsliding' on Race?
- **122.** Should All Americans Receive Anti-Bias Education?
- **123.** <u>Should All Companies Require Anti-Bias</u> Training for Employees?
- **124.** Should Columbus Day Be Replaced With Indigenous Peoples Day?
- 125. Is Fear of 'The Other' Poisoning Public Life?
- **126.** <u>Justice Ginsburg Fought for Gender</u> <u>Equality. How Close Are We to Achieving That</u> Goal?
- **127.** What Should #MeToo Mean for Teenage Boys?
- 128. Should There Be More Boy Dolls?
- **129.** Should the Boy Scouts Be Coed?
- 130. What Is Hard About Being a Boy?

- **131.** <u>Fashion-Show Diversity</u>: What other industries or aspects of life need more diversity?
- **132.** A Town's New Seal: Why do you think Whitesboro, N.Y., decided to change its seal?
- **133.** <u>Gender Expectations</u>: Do you ever find gender expectations or norms confining?
- **134.** Women's History Month: What does this holiday mean to you?
- **135.** Boys and Men: What does it mean to "be a man"?
- **136.** Women in Movies: Should some movies dominated by male actors be remade with largely female casts?

- **137.** <u>Unisex Clothing</u>: Should clothing labeling be unisex?
- **138.** <u>Feminism</u>: Do you consider yourself a feminist?
- **139.** <u>Gender and 'Genderless'</u>: Do you think that gender is binary?

Arts

Article-Based Prompts

- 140. What Are the Greatest Songs of All Time?
- **141.** Should Museums Return Looted Artifacts to Their Countries of Origin?
- 142. How Do You Feel About Censored Music?
- **143.** What Role Should Celebrities Have During the Coronavirus Crisis?
- **144.** Can You Separate Art From the Artist?
- **145.** Are There Subjects That Should Be Off-Limits to Artists, or to Certain Artists in Particular?
- 146. Should Art Come With Trigger Warnings?
- **147.** Should Graffiti Be Protected?
- **148.** <u>Is the Digital Era Improving or Ruining the</u> Experience of Art?
- **149.** Are Museums Still Important in the Digital Age?
- **150.** In the Age of Digital Streaming, Are Movie Theaters Still Relevant?
- **151.** Is Hollywood Becoming More Diverse?
- **152.** What Stereotypical Characters Make You Cringe?
- 153. Do We Need More Female Superheroes?
- **154.** <u>Do Video Games Deserve the Bad Rap They</u> Often Get?
- **155.** Should Musicians Be Allowed to Copy or Borrow From Other Artists?
- **156.** <u>Is Listening to a Book Just as Good as</u> Reading It?
- **157.** Is There Any Benefit to Reading Books You Hate?

Image-Based Prompts

- **158.** <u>Hologram Musicians</u>: Which departed artists would you like to see perform live?
- **159.** Movie Theaters: In the age of digital streaming, are movie theaters still relevant?

- **160.** <u>'The Image of the Revolution'</u>: What is it about this photograph that makes it so powerful?
- **161.** Book Covers: What are your favorite book covers? Why?
- **162.** <u>Fashion Trends</u>: What are your favorite fashion trends? What trends do you hate?
- **163.** <u>Fashion Comebacks</u>: What trends from the past would you like to see revived?
- **164.** Murals: Can art be an act of resistance?
- 165. An 18-Karat Throne: Is this art?
- **166.** A Hug Seen Around the World: Why do you think this image became so popular so quickly?
- **167.** The Role of Public Broadcasting: Do you think programs like "Sesame Street" make the U.S. smarter, stronger and safer?
- **168.** <u>Best Books?</u>: What have you read and loved this year?

Sports

Article-Based Prompts

- **169.** Should Girls and Boys Sports Teams Compete in the Same League?
- **170.** Should College Athletes Be Paid?
- **171.** Are Youth Sports Too Competitive?
- **172.** <u>Is It Selfish to Pursue Risky Sports Like</u> Extreme Mountain Climbing?
- **173.** How Should We Punish Sports Cheaters?
- **174.** Should Technology in Sports Be Limited?
- **175.** Should Blowouts Be Allowed in Youth Sports?
- **176.** Are Some Youth Sports Too Intense?
- **177.** <u>Does Better Sports Equipment Unfairly Improve Athletic Ability?</u>
- **178.** <u>Is It Offensive for Sports Teams and Their Fans to Use Native American Names, Imagery and Gestures?</u>

- 179. Brady's Big Move: How do you feel about
- Tom Brady leaving the Patriots?
- **180.** <u>Tiger Woods Wins</u>: What are the greatest comebacks in history?
- **181.** <u>Referees</u>: Do sports officials deserve more respect?
- **182.** \$430 Million Deal: Is any athlete worth that amount of money?

- **183.** Super Bowl Commercials: Was it smart for advertisers to steer clear of controversy in 2019?
- **184.** Champions: What team in any sport would you like to see win a championship?
- **185.** The Outspoken N.B.A.: Should all sports leagues treat political speech as a right for their players?
- **186.** Gymnastics on Horseback: What is the world's most difficult sport?
- **187.** <u>Tackle Football</u>: Should children under the age of 12 play tackle football, in your opinion?
- **188.** <u>Breakdancing</u>: Should dance be an Olympic event?
- **189.** <u>Coed Sports</u>: Do you think women and men should compete against each other in sports?
- **190.** <u>Super Bowl Halftime Performer</u>: Whom would you choose to perform at the Super Bowl, and why?
- **191.** <u>Colin Kaepernick's Protest</u>: What do you think of this protest?

Parenting & Childhood

Article-Based Prompts

- 192. Should Parents Track Their Children?
- **193.** Who Should Decide Whether a Teenager

Can Get a Tattoo or Piercing?

- **194.** <u>Is It Harder to Grow Up in the 21st Century</u> Than It Was in the Past?
- **195.** Is Childhood Today Over-Supervised?
- **196.** How Should Parents Talk to Their Children About Drugs?
- 197. What Should We Call Your Generation?
- **198.** Do Parents Ever Cross a Line by Helping Too Much With Schoolwork?
- 199. What's the Best Way to Discipline Children?
- **200.** What Are Your Thoughts on 'Snowplow Parents'?
- **201.** Should Stay-at-Home Parents Be Paid?
- **202.** When Do You Become an Adult?

Image-Based Prompts

- **203.** Household Chores: Do you think children should help out around the house?
- **204.** Spy Cams: Should parents use smart devices to keep tabs on their children when they're home alone?

- **205.** Adults With Rainbow Hair: Are there some trends adults just should not try?
- **206.** Parenting Skills: Should parents say "no" more often when their children ask for new things?

Ethics & Morality

Article-Based Prompts

- **207.** Should Students Be Monitored When Taking Online Tests?
- 208. What Makes a Great Leader?
- 209. Is It OK to Laugh During Dark Times?
- **210.** Is It Immoral to Increase the Price of Goods During a Crisis?
- **211.** Would You Allow an Ex-Prisoner to Live With You?
- **212.** Would You Return a Lost Wallet? (What if It Had Lots of Money in It?)
- **213.** <u>Is It Wrong to Focus on Animal Welfare When Humans Are Suffering?</u>
- **214.** Is Animal Testing Ever Justified?
- **215.** Should We Be Concerned With Where We Get Our Pets?
- **216.** Is This Exhibit Animal Cruelty or Art?
- **217.** Should Extinct Animals Be Resurrected? If So, Which Ones?
- **218.** Why Do Bystanders Sometimes Fail to Help When They See Someone in Danger?
- **219.** <u>Is It Ethical to Create Genetically Edited Humans?</u>
- **220.** Should Reporters Ever Help the People They Are Covering?
- **221.** <u>Is It OK to Use Family Connections to Get a Job?</u>
- **222.** <u>Is \$1 Billion Too Much Money for Any One</u> Person to Have?
- **223.** Are We Being Bad Citizens If We Don't Keep Up With the News?
- **224.** <u>Should Prisons Offer Incarcerated People</u> Education Opportunities?
- **225.** Should Law Enforcement Be Able to Use DNA Data From Genealogy Websites for Criminal Investigations?
- 226. Should We Treat Robots Like People?

Image-Based Prompts

- **227.** World's Big Sleep Out: What lengths would you go to in support of a worthy cause?
- **228.** <u>Tipping</u>: Do you leave a tip whenever you're asked to?
- **229.** <u>Cash Reward</u>: Should you accept a cash reward for doing the right thing?
- **230.** Cheating: Would you tell if you caught your classmates cheating?
- **231.** <u>Do Not Resuscitate</u>: Should doctors have tried to revive this man?
- **232.** <u>Hitler and History</u>: Should the bunker where Hitler killed himself be a tourist attraction?
- **233.** <u>Solving Global Problems</u>: As the head of a global foundation, what problem would you solve?

Government & Politics

Article-Based Prompts

- **234.** Should the Death Penalty Be Abolished?
- **235.** <u>If You Were a Member of Congress, Would</u> You Vote to Impeach President Trump?
- **236.** Who Do You Think Should Be Person of the Year for 2020?
- **237.** Should the United States Decriminalize the Possession of Drugs?
- **238.** What Would You Do First if You Were the New President?
- **239.** <u>Does Everyone Have a Responsibility to Vote?</u>
- **240.** How Should We Remember the
- <u>Problematic Actions of the Nation's Founders?</u>
- **241.** Do You Care Who Sits on the Supreme Court? Should We Care?
- **242.** <u>Is the Electoral College a Problem? Does It Need to Be Fixed?</u>
- **243.** Are Presidential Debates Helpful to Voters? Or Should They Be Scrapped?
- **244.** <u>Is Your Generation Doing Its Part to</u> Strengthen Our Democracy?
- 245. Should We All Be Able to Vote by Mail?
- **246.** What Issues in the 2020 Presidential Race Are Most Important to You?
- **247.** Do You Think the American Dream Is Real?
- **248.** Should Plastic Bags Be Banned Everywhere?

- **249.** Does the United States Owe Reparations to the Descendants of Enslaved People?
- **250.** Do You Think It Is Important for Teenagers to Participate in Political Activism?
- **251.** Should the Voting Age Be Lowered to 16?
- **252.** What Should Lawmakers Do About Guns and Gun Violence?
- **253.** <u>Should Confederate Statues Be Removed or Remain in Place?</u>
- **254.** <u>Does the U.S. Constitution Need an Equal Rights Amendment?</u>
- **255.** Should National Monuments Be Protected by the Government?
- **256.** Should Free Speech Protections Include Self Expression That Discriminates?
- **257.** How Important Is Freedom of the Press?
- **258.** Should Ex-Felons Have the Right to Vote?
- 259. Should Marijuana Be Legal?
- **260.** Should the United States Abolish Daylight Saving Time?
- **261.** Should the U.S. Ban Military-Style Semiautomatic Weapons?
- **262.** Should the U.S. Get Rid of the Electoral College?
- **263.** What Do You Think of President Trump's Use of Twitter?
- **264.** Should Celebrities Weigh In on Politics?
- **265.** Why Is It Important for People With Different Political Beliefs to Talk to Each Other?
- **266.** Should Athletes Speak Out On Social and Political Issues?

- **267.** Government Buildings: Should they all look like the Lincoln Memorial?
- **268.** Oprah for President: Would you vote for her if you could?
- **269.** <u>Peaceful Protesting</u>: In what ways can you demonstrate peacefully to express your views?
- **270.** <u>Student Climate Strikes</u>: What issues do you think deserve more attention?
- **271.** Pennies: Should the United States get rid of the penny?
- **272.** Mandatory Voting?: Should citizens who are 18 or older be required to vote?
- **273.** <u>Dabbing in Congress</u>: Should this teenager have dabbed in his father's official swearing-in photo?

274. <u>Baby Bonds</u>: Should the government give money to babies?

Other Questions

Article-Based Prompts

275. We Document Life's Milestones. How Should We Document Death?

276. Does Reality TV Deserve Its Bad Rap?

277. <u>Do Marriage Proposals Still Have a Place in</u> Today's Society?

278. Should We Rethink Thanksgiving?

279. How Do You Decide What News to Believe, What to Question and What to Dismiss?

280. Should the Week Be Four Days Instead of Five?

281. Should Public Transit Be Free?

282. How Important Is Knowing a Foreign Language?

283. Is There a 'Right Way' to Be a Tourist?

284. Should Your Significant Other Be Your Best Friend?

285. What Do You Think of the #WalkUpNotOut Movement?

Image-Based Prompts

286. <u>Teenage Drivers</u>: What do you think of Georgia's decision to issue driver's licenses without road tests?

287. Snow Days: How do you feel about winter weather?

288. Fortune Tellers: Do you believe in psychics?

289. Big City, Small Town: Which would you rather live in? Why?

290. <u>Game Show Winner</u>: Would you ever want to be a contestant on a game show?

291. <u>Fast-Food Buffet</u>: Is this the feast of your dreams or your nightmares?

292. <u>Public Libraries</u>: Are libraries still relevant and important today?

293. <u>Trans Fats</u>: Should trans fats be banned around the world?

294. Dolls: If you could have your favorite toy company make a doll of someone, who would it be and why?

295. <u>Creepy Clowns</u>: How do you feel about clowns?

296. <u>Tattoos</u>: How do you feel about tattooing in general?

297. <u>Brushing Beagle</u>: What are the best dog breeds, in your opinion?

298. <u>U.F.O.s</u>: Do you believe that U.F.O.s are signs of alien life?

299. Small Talk: Do you have the gift of gab?

300. Lottery Winnings: Would you want to win the lottery? Why or why not?